

2908 East Main Road
Portsmouth, RI 02871
January 22, 2019

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PORTSMOUTH, R.I.
2019 FEB - 11 P 1: 20
JENNIFER M. WEST
TOWN CLERK

Kevin M. Aguilar
C/O Town Hall
Portsmouth, RI 02871

Dear Kevin M. Aguilar,

Here are three reasons why the Town of Portsmouth should not enter the commercial real estate market and rent space at the Brown House to private interests:

Reason #1: We are not in the business of Commercial Development or Job Creation

The Brown House was not restored to create a commercial real estate investment opportunity. The building ought to serve the residents of Portsmouth directly, and not be rented or leased for any real or imagined "profit". The town was neither organized to be a job creator, nor to turn a profit on commercial development opportunities. The \$ 15,000 per year to maintain the building will cost the typical tax payer about \$ 1.50 per year. For such a very small amount of money we can keep the building for the use of the community.

There are many town uses for the Brown House to consider. One possible use, among others, might be a community gathering place. The first duty of the council is to serve the needs and interests of the people of Portsmouth; 10,000 residents whose investment in the community measures 3.3 billion dollars.

Reason #2 We do not need to rent Brown House office space to pay a Recreation Director

If Portsmouth needs a recreation director we should hire one. If the position is valuable to the community we can afford to pay for it, and we will benefit from it. The salary of \$ 35,000 for this position would cost the average tax payer only \$ 3.50 per year.

Reason #3 Our Job is Portsmouth

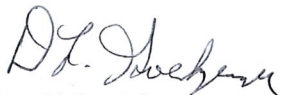
Portsmouth was organized to provide education, fire protection, and police protection. And, to do all such things which enrich the life of the community. We should look to serve these objectives first and always. The town was not organized to enter the business of commercial development or to engage in job creation. The town of Portsmouth is not a business. A business is run like a business, but a town is run like a town. We live here.

I remind you that a library is an important part of our commitment to education. Yet, distracted with job creation, wind turbines, and commercial real estate development, we have not fully funded the Portsmouth Public Library. There is no reason or excuse for this. Portsmouth's proud commitment to education is older than the nation.

Good community planning, investments, and services benefit the life of the community, and can increase property values out of proportion to cost. Let the state government handle job creation and business development.

This is a time to stop seeking tax relief in pennies, and begin to invest dollars for things we want, need, and use. A dollar invested for something that improves the community can bring a reward measured in tens of dollars.

Sincerely,



David Goetzinger