

From: [Nyhan, Keith](#)
To: [Bonenfant, Janice](#)
Cc: [Keith Nyhan](#); [Nyhan, Keith](#)
Subject: Re: Expanded testimony on city budget
Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:56:02 AM

Janice, Would you please distribute the following message to my fellow councilors for review and discussion this evening. Thanks.

Good morning,

Following is a proposed draft for our discussion this evening.

DRAFT STATEMENT

We, the elected officials of Concord, the city's leadership team, and all city employees, stand with people and communities across the country who are demanding a renewed focus on racial equity and diversity acceptance.

We pledge to use our platform, our voices, and our policies to combat racism and inequality, to listen to the experiences of community members most impacted, and to reflect on our own roles in how to address these challenges as we shape our path forward together.

Every person in our community deserves to be able to count on fair and just treatment, especially within the leadership and institutions of our democracy. Over the coming months, Concord plans to convene community discussions and identify action steps to ensure that we are delivering on our commitment to racial justice.

Our city is also undertaking a public review of our policing and use of force practices, so that community members may feel confident in our approach. The Concord Police Department has a longstanding commitment to community policing, outreach to communities of color, and measured use of force. While proud of the Department's accomplishments, we look forward to engaging in a public conversation about departmental policies and programs to identify any areas for improvement.

Concord strives to be a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming community, and our commitment and examination of how policies impact people of color in our community is important and can only further benefit all residents and visitors to our city.

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 15, 2020, at 6:24 PM, Baia, Carlos <CBaia@concordnh.gov> wrote:

For tonight's Council hearing

-----Original Message-----

From: Roy Schweiker [mailto:royswkr@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 5:40 PM

To: City Council Meeting

Subject: Expanded testimony on city budget

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe]

I would like to expand my previous testimony on the city budget in view of the lame attempts some departments have made (maybe to avoid?) reopening. Public health experts predict that the virus will linger through the summer maybe with another peak in the fall. While we can hope they are wrong, sound planning would require every department's goals for FY 2021 to include developing and implementing a plan for operations next year in line with Covid-19 guidelines.

Specifically, no department should expect to provide services outside or in a tent in November - it gets cold and wet here - so let's make the change now! And if large gatherings are prohibited, then more numerous small gatherings with signup required is a better solution than no gatherings and it's not like the staff don't exist. Some specific complaints about services offered last week are:

- * The police department needs to provide an inside space where those fleeing domestic abuse or other violent crime can take immediate shelter and other screening interviews can take place. I would have thought that the existing lobby which is small and easy to clean and receptionists are protected by glass would be ideal, but if not another space must be found.
- * The fire department must find an indoor location to meet vendors, contractors, and other appropriate visitors.
- * The recreation department must reopen in-person senior programs; even if the 10-person limit returns they should take place with advance sign-up required. This might not include cards and games where close seating is required, but 6-foot spacing would work for exercise and meetings. Some seniors will still prefer to stay home, but others are getting stir-crazy lacking jobs and other activities, and meeting with other seniors is safer than venturing into the world at large.

Speaking of safety, I understand there are many issues with reopening pools, but is allowing kids to swim unsupervised in the Merrimack River really any safer?

- * So long as the library cannot reopen the building (a cleaning nightmare!) they should offer as many options as possible, and not just say "Use the internet!" without providing guidance or access. Since a closed building requires less staff, the library should be open winter hours all summer until the building opens. This

would include 7-day curbside delivery of materials and telephone access to reference librarians. There should also be public Internet access using library computers - either workstations set up somewhere for short-term use, laptops loaned out curbside for outside use, or loaned for longer periods like DVDs.

I note that even after 2 months for planning, library materials delivery required librarians standing in the rain with umbrellas so I can see why it isn't popular with them. However if the table was set even with the doors, the librarians could shelter inside and only rarely would go out in the rain.

-rs