



THE CITY OF NASHUA

The Office of Economic Development

"The Gate City"

TO: Bobbie Bagley, Director of Public Health
FROM: Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development
DATE: November 2, 2020
RE: Memo Outlining Initial Response on Idea of Curfew from Local Business Community

On Saturday, November 21st Director Bagley asked that I query and provide sentiments on how the local economic marketplace would handle and or react to a curfew. The concept of a curfew is still in its infancy with little in the way of details; however, I shared the general concept and idea then assessed the overall impression. These conversations took place throughout Saturday and into Sunday. I outreached to approximately ten business leaders' predominantly local independent business owners in the restaurant, bar, entertainment industry.

The following outlines the varied responses and/or questions that were posed during my outreach. The comments/questions below are not verbatim and/or quotes, but rather provides insight into their thinking.

Questions

- What about parks and fields ? (And generally places where people congregate)
- How are the hospitals doing ? Where are they capacity wise ?
- What is the anticipated duration of this "curfew" ?
- What are we trying to accomplish ? - Please justify the rational – And if data/metrics can be developed – ("otherwise why are we doing this" ?)
- What about functions/meetings in hotels ?
- Is this restaurant/bar specific or all businesses citywide ? (retail/specialty shops?)
- What about Special Events ?
- Is there any assistance forthcoming from state/feds/city to help offset the impact either to employees directly or businesses themselves ?
- Is it 930 PM until what time in the morning ?
- Professional service businesses would they need to leave their office? (Essential Employers Exemption?)
- Churchgoers Religious gathers They will be also curtailed ? Social Clubs (Fraternal Organizations) ? Nonprofits ? – what's the logic in just focusing on restaurant and food industries (they are not just the spreaders of this disease)
- Come 930 it's spaced out already. It's not going to help... You need to focus on younger focused businesses that serve alcohol - It's not the 930 crowd It's the 11 PM crowd you want to focus on.
- What's the data say? Does it say 930? Why 930 and not 10 ?
- Structure for restaurants to state "no new seating" "last seating by 930 PM"
- If concern is out of state patrons that no longer can occur with travel restrictions in place
- Should a decision at the higher level of government or at least regional and not just Nashua specific
- "Kneejerk reaction" it's not necessary. Cases are going up as there is more testing, but there is no need to put in a curfew as hospitals are handling the cases they see and there are treatments.
- Are there other ways to accomplish the same goal ? Have they been explored ? (i.e. more education and promotion of social distancing)
- Bars/clubs are a problem - can they be individually treated and leave eat-in restaurants alone.

Conclusion

Overall, there appears to be an openness to the concept, but there is a reluctance or hesitation. Ultimately, there needs to be a well thought-out approach to limit negative impacts and to ensure a strategic decision is made that will justify the actions being taken.