

### Virtual Comments for City Council Meeting – June 16, 2020

Date	Time	First Name	Last Name	Phone Number	Email	Concerns/Comments
6/5/20	8:22pm	Saroj	Patnaik	NA	<a href="mailto:sandesha@bellsouth.net">sandesha@bellsouth.net</a>	Support – PlanITGSO Comp Plan; wants PH participation
6/7/20	2:51pm	Greg	Monty	NA	<a href="mailto:ghmonty@ncat.edu">ghmonty@ncat.edu</a>	Support – Comp Plan
6/7/20	10:36am	Karen	Rolandelli	NA	<a href="mailto:krolandell@aol.com">krolandell@aol.com</a>	Support – repair of downtown businesses
6/15/20	10:57am	Signey	Gray	NA	<a href="mailto:asigneyz@yahoo.com">asigneyz@yahoo.com</a>	Support – repair of downtown businesses
6/15/20	11:08am	Megan	Hill	NA	<a href="mailto:Mnhill88@gmail.com">Mnhill88@gmail.com</a>	Opposed – Comp Plan
6/15/20	12:05pm	April	Harris	336-686-0288	<a href="mailto:aharris@newcityventures.net">aharris@newcityventures.net</a>	Support – repair of downtown businesses
6/15/20	1:02pm	Daniel	Weatherington	NA	<a href="mailto:gatecitycandycompany@gmail.com">gatecitycandycompany@gmail.com</a>	Support – in repair of downtown businesses
6/15/20	1:53pm	Bill	Heroy	NA	<a href="mailto:heroywa@gmail.com">heroywa@gmail.com</a>	Support – repair of downtown businesses
6/15/20	2:00pm	Jeff	Champigny	NA	<a href="mailto:greensborodra@gmail.com">greensborodra@gmail.com</a>	Support – repair of downtown businesses

Summary of Virtual Comments	
Topic	Number of Submissions
Rebuilding Downtown Greensboro	6
Comprehensive Plan	3

Summary of Virtual Comments Received During the 24-Hour Period Following the Public Hearing	
Topic	Number of Submissions
Budget	1
Rebuilding Downtown Greensboro	1
Comprehensive Plan	1
North State Security	1

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** webmaster@greensboro-nc.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2020 8:22 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Comp Plan Public Hearing

Recipients: virtualcomment@greensboro-nc.gov  
Sender subject: Request to participate in June 16  
Sender name: Saroj Patnaik  
Sender email: Sandesha@bellsouth.net

Hello, I have been part of PlanITGSO advisory committee that gathered ideas, reconciled differing views and articulated the vision for the city, and clearly, I would be very keen to contribute to the public hearing to secure a buy-in from the elected City council and Greensboro residents. I am looking forward to an opportunity and mechanism to participate in the hearing on June 16. Regards, Saroj Patnaik

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*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** webmaster@greensboro-nc.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 2:51 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Comp Plan Public Hearing

Recipients: virtualcomment@greensboro-nc.gov  
Sender subject: GSO2040 Plan  
Sender name: Greg Monty  
Sender email: ghmonty@ncat.edu

yes, in favor of plan. Would love to see even more done.

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** Karen Rolandelli <krolandell@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:36 AM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** REBUILDING GREENSBORO

Yes , I am in favor of helping downtown businesses with the cost of repairing damage made during the recent protests. It is risky to start a business, and a downtown business is especially risky. Some have spent their life savings to do this. It is time to stop pointing fingers and help these businesses get back to what they do. They should provide documentation of their costs, and reimburse them all or a portion of that cost. For some reason, our police department was unable to protect these business owners, so compensating them for their losses seems like a no-brainer.

Karen Rolandelli  
1303 Westridge Forest Ct  
Greensboro NC 27410

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*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** Sidney Gray <asidneyz@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:57 AM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Cc:** Zack Matheny  
**Subject:** Re: REBUILDING GREENSBORO : From Sidney and Ricki Gray

Those of us with property or businesses in downtown have worked very hard to create the image of downtown Greensboro as being a vibrant, diverse and safe place to work, shop, visit and be entertained. Through no fault of our own that hard work and positive energy was damaged when the rioters and looters took advantage of a peaceful and well organized protest. In this situation it is the lives of the people who have invested in downtown that have been adversely affected by the looting and destruction. The police did not protect the businesses or properties. Certainly we all agree that downtown was marred as it was just beginning to recover from the COVID-19 shut down. It is the responsibility of the City Council to help these businesses and property owners get back to where they were headed. The City Council has helped lead the way with the revitalization and should most definitely fully support and fully fund the repair.

Sidney and Ricki Gray

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** webmaster@greensboro-nc.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Comp Plan Public Hearing

Recipients: virtualcomment@greensboro-nc.gov  
Sender subject: GSO2040  
Sender name: Megan  
Sender email: mnhill88@gmail.com

I think this plan needs to be put on hold until Mayor Vaughn delivers her plan addressing police brutality. Also, I've lived in GSO city limits since 2015 and have not heard of this plan...probably because only around 2% of Greensboro's population has had input, yet it is advertised as a plan that has heavy community input.

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** April Harris <aharris@newcityventures.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** REBUILDING GREENSBORO

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Report suspicious emails by clicking the “**Phishing Alert**” button.

I support the DGI request to administer up to \$250,000 on behalf of downtown property owners who need help repairing damage due to protests..

Thank you,  
April



**April Harris**  
Principal, New City Ventures  
[aharris@newcityventures.net](mailto:aharris@newcityventures.net)  
336-686-0288  
[www.newcityventures.net](http://www.newcityventures.net)

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*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** Daniel Weatherington <gatecitycandycompany@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 1:02 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Rebuilding Greensboro

Mayor Nancy Vaughn, Greensboro City Council

To all parties concerned, my name is Daniel Weatherington, I am the owner of Gate City Candy Company, and VP of the Retail Alliance Downtown, and a resident of Downtown.

The events of Saturday night/Sunday night May 30-31 caused an incredible amount of damage to our stores and homes. To include broken windows, looting, and fires set in buildings. Our downtown went from a beautiful place to work, shop, and live to a boarded up vacant looking city.

All of this comes right on the heels of the covid-19 shutdown.

As the VP of the Retail Alliance Downtown, I have spoken with many of the businesses downtown. Several of them have already decided to close permanently, and several others seriously considering closing their doors for good.

The businesses need the assistance from the city to help remain open. Three months of almost complete closure has surely taken a toll on our finances. Also, the damage caused by the riots and looting is not covered by most of our insurance policies. So, the cost of repairs has to come out of pocket. Pockets that are already empty due to being forced to close due to State mandate, and then forced closure due to store damage.

~~The businesses downtown are in need. I ask the city government to step up and realize that we need some help.~~  
Help to remain open, help to ensure that Downtown continues to thrive.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** Bill Heroy <heroywa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Rebuilding Greensboro

Although we received minimal damage at our building(Elm St Gallery) which houses Old Photo Specialist, Fire Salon and 5 apartments, we are in favor of Rebuilding Greensboro! We have been in Our location at 320 S. Elm for over 40 years and would like to see Greensboro recover and prosper!

Sent from my iPhone

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** Greensboro Downtown Residents' Association <greensborodra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 2:00 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** REBUILDING GREENSBORO

Good Afternoon

Greensboro DRA supports the rebuilding of downtown Greensboro. It is important more now than ever to continue to support the growth of the downtown community. These small business owners are important to the overall growth of Greensboro. As the community as a whole looks to attract more businesses to the triad we believe it is important having a vibrant downtown. Over the past 5 years it has been amazing to watch the growth and we want to support and foster even more growth.

As the President of the Greensboro Downtown Residents Association I am happy to support this rebuilding effort.

Thank You  
Jeff Champigny  
DRA President

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**From:** Anna Korotitsch <annakoro2100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 11:19 AM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Feedback on Budget

To whom it may concern,

My name is Anna Korotitsch. I am a student at UNC Asheville but I currently reside in Greensboro and have lived here my whole life. I have had minor introductions to economics in some courses, including one where I volunteered doing taxes for free through the VITA program. This being said, I do not have complete logistical knowledge of budgeting especially in regards to city planning.

I would like to say that I'm happy that Greensboro's citizens have this opportunity to speak with you about their thoughts on this matter.

There is much talk through online resources during this time about defunding the police. I think this vague statement needs to be evaluated in that demilitarization should be the focus of this proposal. The violence that is being displayed by incompetent police officers would not have such a wide or dangerous impact if they did not have such a wide access to dangerous weapons and crowd-control supplies such as tear gas that are used in excess, not just to harm people who are destroying our city's small businesses, but protestors who have a right to speak their minds under their first amendment right (organized or unorganized).

This is just one example of how police resources are being used not for our safety and protection, but for mindless violence instigated only by officer's false perception of threats or personal biases, vendettas, power abuse, etc.

In regards to the budget, I believe that less money should be focused on ceaselessly equipping the police and more money should be put to developing a higher level of training that incorporates more sensitivity than a simple internal bias and prejudice conversation within the police training. I believe our city and country would benefit from focusing the police towards performing social work and criminal psychological knowledge. This would likely decrease the brute force and intimidation tactics that have contributed to the loss of many innocent people's lives through police brutality and rash imprisonment.

I would like to reiterate that I obviously do not have a complete understanding of where the funds are exactly delegated, or how these kinds of changes could even be impacted by someone like me, a voter who relies on the transparency of candidates and government officials to carry out such ideals.

I think city-wide discussions such as this are the first step in ending the violence and discontent that we are witnessing in the news and through social media, and again I very much appreciate this opportunity. Thank you for listening, I hope this finds you well.

Sincerely, Anna Korotitsch

From: Bret Mazzei <bretmazzei@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 5:37 PM  
To: Virtual Comment  
Subject: Virtual comments for Items 33 & 34 on tonights city council meeting

## Council Members,

My name is Bret Mazzei, District 4. I am commenting on items 33 (ID 20-0467) and 34 (ID 20-0466). I ask the council to consider matching any funds authorized in this resolution with monies for non-profits focused on East Greensboro organizations that have been targeting some of the root causes of the protests. I am a supporter and frequent customer in our downtown. I believe in the importance of a thriving downtown in attracting residents and businesses which provide jobs and tax dollars to our City. I have spent time in executive corporate roles and mentored some of our downtown businesses. I can relate to the financial burden felt by some of these small businesses in the midst of decreased demand from a pandemic and now ongoing protests. These small businesses are part of the soul of our city and we should help them as much as we can. But unfortunately, and I hope it does not occur, no one knows whether more destruction will take place. The economic risk of future destruction is impactful for the individuals involved in those ~~businesses and also has negative implications on the economic future of this City. I find it~~ imperative for the city to further invest in, and beyond, the immediate destruction. When making capital allocation decisions the question of which boarded up windows take priority seems important to me. Does the split second act of a window broken downtown by brick take priority over the East Greensboro shop that has been boarded up for years? Does the fact that the downtown shop is ready to open for business make it more justifiable, or more risky, to give money to, versus investing in the people dedicated to improving conditions in areas impacted by decades of systematic underinvestment? In the context of recent events, I do not see this as mixing up 2 separate issues. In taking \$250k in appropriated fund balance, one approach would be to match that amount within this fiscal year. Another approach could be splitting that funding amongst the 2 investments, with an openness to provide more to the damaged businesses, if required. I leave it to the council to come up with an appropriate approach. Further, I would ask the council and DGI to ensure that the distribution of the cash to small businesses is transparent to the public and only given to those businesses and/or landlords that need it. Any extra funds can go back to the City or to the non-profits. For those that have seen my comments on the 2020 budget, you know I put deep importance on the fiscal responsibility of the City, but this is not an exceedingly large dollar amount. This, by no stretch of the imagination, gets at the broader issues involved in recent events or should take from the other work required, but I see this as a partial, minor, but meaningful investment and gesture by our City to not only rebuild our damaged small businesses but also invest in those people building up the areas that need funding. With faith, long-term investment, and work in our under-invested areas, may it lead to the economic strength that this council has worked so hard to create. Thank you for your time and consideration.

With gratitude,  
Bret Mazzei

*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** webmaster@greensboro-nc.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** Virtual Comment  
**Subject:** Comp Plan Public Hearing

Recipients: virtualcomment@greensboro-nc.gov  
Sender subject: GSO2040 Draft  
Sender name: Erich Ruediger Keil  
Sender email: erichrkeil@gmail.com

Thank you for putting this together. I have two primary responses/suggestions - 1)There is no significant mention of addressing policing practices or a broader plan for public safety that involves divesting police responsibility and militarization in favor of better mental health, drug addiction, and community engagement practices in a meaningful way. I hope the current circumstances have increased the awareness of just how vital it is to address this in ways that improve the systemic inequities that disproportionately affect BIPOC in Greensboro and elsewhere. This family of issues has impact on every other area of this plan and needs specific action points and metrics. 2)I strongly support strong movement in reducing car traffic and increasing bicycle and pedestrian safety and accessibility as well as expanding sustainable and eco-friendly mass transit. Thank you for your time.

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*Lord, Angela*

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**From:** Bret Mazzei <bretmazzei@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:02 PM  
**To:** Virtual Comment; Outling, Justin; Thurm, Tammi; Hoffmann, Nancy; Hightower, Sharon; Kennedy, Michelle  
**Subject:** Council Meeting 06/16/20 - Virtual Comment Item 36 ID 20-0419 - SECURITY CONTRACT

In relation to the Depot Security Group contract, one suggestion I have is that City staff summarize all current security contracts. That summary would include service provided, metrics the security company tracks, end date of contract, and cost (plus anything else).

Then you can look at security from a comprehensive perspective. Some potential benefits could be:

- 1) Finding the security companies that meet the goals of the City and aligning them to the metrics you want to see for future contracts
- 2) Determining, based on the metrics and knowledge of customer needs, where services besides security may be applicable
- 3) Cost savings as result of potentially consolidating security companies
- 4) There seems to be concern from some council members that they are surprised when contracts get challenged. I understand the risk in delaying the vote each time a contract comes up, but this type process would help get ahead of these items.

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~~You may already do something like this, but I would recommend this for all contracts as part of the budget process. If that has not occurred, this would be a good place to start. It sounds like you are doing something similar for county contracts. I would build on this throughout the year, so that you do have this kind of detail behind next year's budget.~~

Regards,  
Bret Mazzei