

APRIL 2024 LAWS & RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 17th, at 6:30 PM.

1. Community Preservation Plan Update - J. Noble
2. Food Trucks - Alderwoman Edwards
3. Naming the land at 45-49 Van Buren Street Dj'aneira Mason Park-Alderwoman Edwards
4. Memorializing Resolution for Good Cause Eviction

OLD BUSINESS

1. Kingston Charter Revision Task Force-Alderman Scott-Childress

1

L+R

Tinti, Elisa

From: Noble, Julie
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 1:31 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea
Cc: Tinti, Elisa; Graves-Poller, Barbara; Noble, Steve; Michael Drillinger; laeassoc@gmail.com
Subject: Communication to Council re: Community Preservation Plan adoption

Good afternoon,

I would like to request the placement on the Laws and Rules agenda for April 17th the adoption of the City of Kingston Community Preservation Plan and simultaneous SEQR adoption by Local Law.

This is a plan which was created as the third and final plan in the sequence of Natural Resources Inventory, Open Space Plan and now Community Preservation Plan. This Plan, completed in February 2022 with Behan Planning and Design and my office, is a program for protecting our open space and community character, with a map prioritizing each parcel based on objective resource scoring, as well as land use strategies to protect the parcels. This Community Preservation program would be voluntary and, should a Community Preservation Fund be established, funds can only be used to acquire properties or easements from willing landowners.

My ask to the Council is ultimately for 3 Local Laws, but *this meeting will only cover the first:*

- 1) Adoption of Plan and subsequent SEQR
- 2) Establishment of a Community Preservation Fund and Advisory Board
- 3) Establishment of the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT)

You can find all the info about the plan, outreach, mapping, and process at www.engagekingston.com/community-preservation-plan .

In advance of the meeting, I will ensure the draft SEQR documents and Local Law are circulated.

Thank you,
Julie

Julie L. Noble
City of Kingston
Environmental Education & Sustainability Coordinator
467 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
845-481-7339



420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

March 21, 2024

City of Kingston Common Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

To the City of Kingston Common Council:

The Climate Smart Kingston Commission wishes to express our full support for a bicycle sharing program in the City of Kingston.

There are many benefits to bicycle sharing. A study published in 2021 found that bike share programs in the US decreased public healthcare costs by over \$36 million annually (Clockston & Rojas-Rueda, 2021). Bike-friendly streets, such as are both built and being planned in Kingston, support ridership by allowing a wider range of riders to participate safely. And bike shares are safe: the bicycles themselves used in such programs are designed to ride slower, lower, and more stably than bicycles for personal use, which contributes to lower rates of collision on bikeshare bicycles than on personal bikes (Martin et al., 2016). Bike shares decrease traffic and parking congestion, and promote physical activity.

Bike sharing also provides expanded transit access without adding to the combustion-related pollution that causes climate change. In a city like New York, where public transit is extensive and frequent, many people choosing to ride shared bicycles are doing so rather than taking the subway, which makes little to no difference in pollution. However, the limited public transit options in Kingston mean that many residents are taking frequent taxis and car-hailing service rides, which would mean that replacing those commute vehicles with shared bicycles would prevent unnecessary car rides and related pollution. Changing just one city trip per day from a car ride to a bike ride lowers that rider's climate-warming pollution for the day by 67% (Brand et al., 2021). The University of California-Berkeley has calculated that each mile a person travels by bicycle instead of car prevents about a pound of carbon dioxide pollution from entering the atmosphere.

Previous bikeshare proposals have met with unanimous support from our Commission. Transportation is the second biggest producer of climate pollution in New York State, causing 28% of our warming impact. The City's 2030 Climate Action Plan commits us to reducing

combustion vehicle use as well as the tailpipe pollution that comes from gas-powered cars and trucks. Expansion of public transit is helpful and necessary, but does not meet the needs of residents located farther from public transit routes, or who require transportation on demand and cannot work around the bus schedules. Providing clean, electric- or human-powered personal mobility around the city helps us reach that objective.

For further context on the role of bike sharing in meeting municipal health and climate goals, please see the studies cited (listed below), or reach out to our Commission with any questions.

Sincerely,

Climate Smart Kingston Commission

Studies cited:

Brand, C., Dons, E., Anaya-Boig, E., Ávila-Palència, I., Clark, A., De Nazelle, A., Gascón, M., Gaupp-Berghausen, M., Gerike, R., Götschi, T., Iacorossi, F., Kahlmeier, S., Laeremans, M., Nieuwenhuijsen, M., Orjuela, J. P., Racioppi, F., Raser, E., Rojas-Rueda, D., Standaert, A., . . . Panis, L. I. (2021). The climate change mitigation effects of daily active travel in cities. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2021.102764>

Clockston, R. L. M., & Rojas-Rueda, D. (2021). Health impacts of bike-sharing systems in the U.S. *Environmental Research*, 202, 111709. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2021.111709>

Martin, E., Cohen, A., Botha, J., & Shaheen, S. (2016). *Bikesharing and Bicycle Safety* (MTI Report 12-54). Mineta Transportation Institute. <https://transweb.sjsu.edu/research/Bikesharing-and-Bicycle-Safety>

2

LAR

Tinti, Elisa

From: Shaut, Andrea
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:48 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Subject: Fw: Food trucks- communications

Please include the below email in my communications folder.

Thank you!

Andrea Shaut

Council President, City of Kingston

From: Edwards, Jeanne <Ward4@kingston-ny.gov>
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2024 2:18 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea <ashaut@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: Food trucks- communications

Dear Madame President and Common Council,

Good afternoon, I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to inform you of the issues regarding the flow of traffic on Elemendorf St, Downs St and O'Neil St. At the entrance to each of these streets there are food trucks permanently parked, interrupting the flow of traffic, pedestrian crossings and taking up legal parking spaces, limiting parking for business and residents and visitors to the area.

Additionally, restaurant owners have expressed their feelings regarding these trucks and the issues they present to them. The restaurateur's pay high rents, taxes, insurances and have the need to employ many members of staff, while these trucks function under different guidelines and are taking up coveted parking spots and creating unnecessary competition and intrusion in the restaurant community.

The solution that would best serve our community is to have designated areas for food trucks to park to control the flow of traffic, the safety of patrons and pedestrians and create a more harmonious and prosperous environment where the city of Kingston, midtown area, can continue to be a food destination while meeting the needs of all its small business owners and showing our support to the brick and mortar locations as well as our mobile establishments.

I believe the council should establish a resolution that sets a time frame for when and where these mobile trucks operate. They should not be able to stay parked in the same space 24/7, commandeering coveted spaces that should be rotated more regularly to allow all mobile businesses to prosper here in Kingston.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter, we look forward to your anticipated cooperation in bettering our city and keeping it safe.

Respectfully yours,
Alderman Jeanne Edwards

15
From: Edwards, Jeanne <Ward4@kingston-ny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:26 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea <ashaut@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: Communications

Dear President Shaut,

I am writing to request the parcels of land on Van Buren Street 45-49 to be officially named, Dj'aneira Mason Park.

She was tragically shot in her home at Christmas time.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted.

Alderman Jeanne Edwards

4

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF GOOD CAUSE
EVICTION (S305/A4454) AT THE STATE LEVEL AS WRITTEN**

WHEREAS, according to Census Bureau data, 18.9% of residents in the City of Kingston live below the poverty line, which is higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, according to Census Bureau data, 42% of housing units in the City of Kingston are rentals; and

WHEREAS, according to ACS Data, 50.7% of renters in the City of Kingston are Rent Burdened and 24.7% of renters are Extremely Rent Burdened; and

WHEREAS, The City of Kingston Common Council enacted Good Cause Eviction, on January 13, 2022 along with the Cities of Albany, Beacon, Newburgh and Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2023, the Appellate Court of the Third Division of New York State struck down Albany's local Good Cause Eviction protection based on state preemption; and

WHEREAS, in April of 2023, the Kingston Common Council repealed Good Cause Eviction; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Legislature and Governor failed to pass Good Cause Eviction at the State level; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, City of Kingston tenants in non EPTA protected buildings continued to face no cause lease non-renewals or steep rent increases, forcing many to vacate their longtime community; and

WHEREAS, the compromised version of Good Cause Eviction would exempt all landlords with portfolios of 10 or less units, leaving 3 out 5 rental units in the City of Kingston without said protections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Kingston supports and endorses S305/A4454 which would bring the right to renew a lease renewal with limited rent increases to all renters in non-owner-occupied buildings in the state as outlined in the Good Cause Eviction legislation: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Kingston supports and endorses Good Cause Eviction (S305/A4454), as written; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey, New York State Assemblymember Sarahana Shresthra, Senate Judiciary Chair Brad Holyman, Assembly Judiciary

Chair Charles Lavine, Senate Housing Chair Brian Kavanagh, and Assembly Housing Chair Linda Rosenthal.

OLD BUSINESS

LTR

Tinti, Elisa

From: Shaut, Andrea
Sent: Friday, January 26, 2024 9:45 AM
To: Tinti, Elisa
Cc: Scott-Childress, Reynolds
Subject: Fw: Communication re Establishing a Charter Review Task Force

Good morning,

Please include the following email in my communications folder.

Thank you,

Andrea Shaut

Council President, City of Kingston

From: Scott-Childress, Reynolds <Ward3@kingston-ny.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 7:40 PM
To: Shaut, Andrea <ashaut@kingston-ny.gov>
Subject: Communication re Establishing a Charter Review Task Force

Dear President Shaut,

I request that the appropriate committee of the Kingston Common Council consider initiating a process to establish a “Kingston Charter Revision Task Force.”

The NY Department of State document, “Revising City Charters in New York State,” describes a City charter as “the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city government. It is comparable to the State Constitution and the Constitution of the United States. The charter is, therefore, the most important single law of any city.” The Department of State document notes that a “good charter should provide a clear distribution of the powers of city government and clear descriptions of the duties and powers of municipal officials.”

Reasons to consider Charter revision, or at least review, might include:

- Providing the basis for reconsidering municipal regulatory functions and improving the delivery of municipal services.
- Avoiding problems caused by obsolete provisions that may have become unworkable due to changed conditions.
- Removing contradictions between outmoded structural features and excellent delivery of essential services.
- Establishing a reasonable balance of powers to ensure our City government equitably represents Kingston residents’ interests.

From what I understand, the City of Kingston’s charter has not been reviewed in more than twenty years. It is certainly possible that our Charter is not in need of significant revision. But I believe it is high time we consider the quality of the current Charter with an eye to making any improvements a review might reveal.