

From: [Rowan Tree](#)
To: [Vending Oversight Committee](#)
Cc: leeann.abrams@aol.com; trisha54902@yahoo.com
Subject: Saturday Arts and Crafts Vending Changes
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2022 8:52:10 PM

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Dear Committee;

I, along with my business partner, have been an downtown arts and crafts vendor since 2017. We have worked our way up the seniority list to finally have a place in the vending line up that allowed us to make a profit, rather than operating at a loss on Saturdays. Going forward, we were excited about our prospects. Until we heard the news about the proposed change in the vending map.

Listening to the last meeting, I felt like our fate was already assigned, but I am hopeful that our voices will be heard.

It is our opinion that the proposed changes are a net loss for the vendors. The vendors depend on the income from their Saturday sales, and they and we spend a lot of money on licenses and permits to be there, in a space where we can succeed.

I'm sure you have heard; that the prime, money-making spots are the ones at the head of State St. The same ones where several are slated for removal. Which will force most vendors into sub-prime spots and those like us or newer vendors will be shunted to no-mans land. We all depend on the pedestrian traffic that doesn't go much past Michelangelo's coffee shop.

The owner of Ian's made mention that they knew from the start they would have to wait until after vendors left to put out any tables, that was their agreement. We are surprised that the vendors are being sacrificed for something Ian's knows wasn't an option. Additionally, they don't even open until 11AM. By the time they are open, vendors have already been selling for three and a half hours.

The Downtown Information Kiosk is another mystery. I'd like to know how many people actually use this kiosk in the era of cell phone data plans. While vending, we've been asked for directions, but I've never noticed anyone at the kiosk.

Lastly, the issue of bike riders traversing to Mifflin St. through Philosopher's Grove. For one, Madison Laws state bikes can only be ridden on sidewalks where buildings are set back from the sidewalk. This is not the case in the downtown, commercial area. Even if the vendors were gone from the Grove, it would still be full of pedestrians with no clear path for bikes to ride through. Secondly, from our experience, most of the bikes travel State Street, not the sidewalks. We feel this is an extreme reaction to a problem that really isn't a problem. Philosopher's Grove was designed to be a gathering place, a pop up market was planned for that area, and arts and crafts activities among other events. It was not meant as a throughway.
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I'm hoping, very much, that the committee votes no on these drastic changes.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to our message,

Best,

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LeeAnn & Trisha
Rowan Tree Bath Works LLC
608-318-2164