

Dear fellow ARPA Committee members,

I was asked by Mayor Coogan, and agreed, to be a part of a committee that would collaborate on ideas regarding the ARPA funds that the city will receive and how they might best be used.

I underscore the word might because I understand that the final decision is not the committee's but rather the City Officials, mainly the administration.

That being said I feel that the first meeting was very general, productive and intended mostly to bring the committee members up to speed regarding these funds and how they might be used. Committee members shared their thought's and everyone had a chance to speak.

This e-mail chain and the letter from Councilor Peckham, regarding Ken Fiola, are concerning to me because I, like others, have opinions and thoughts that I have been asked to share. If people don't agree with me, fine, but I do not want to attend future meetings with a fear that my comments will cause division amongst this committee or worse become a social media topic.

As a civic minded business owner I do not have the time or patience for these types of distractions and would suggest that if this committee is going to be productive, we need to respect each other's opinions and work productively for the betterment of our city.

I truly hope that going forward we can all focus on what we were asked to do.

Respectfully, Karl Hetzler