

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 9:35	Sarah Samore	Keep Abravenel Hall!!	Please do what you can to keep Ryan Smith from building the sports and entertainment district at the site of Abrvanel Hall!! This is absolutely ludicrous!!! That's one of the most beautiful buildings in SLC, it's not that old and would be a terrible waste of resources to destroy it! It's an iconic space for musical Arts and should absolutely remain in place!! Thank you. Sarah Samore
5/8/2024 10:05 AM	Cael Crosby	City Council Stance on Police Violence	I am feeling sick, so I am unable to make it to tonight's council, but I am a consistent from Dan Dugan's district (I believe it is district 6), and feel the need to say a few words nonetheless. I have been disturbed to see the recent use of Riot-gear policing on UofU students who were peacefully protesting i have felt extremely unsafe given the 17 original arrests and the recent arrest of Deja, who is a black organizer. I think we see the repeating patterns in history right? Black students and leaders in social change movements are targeted, then we pretend we supported their right to peacefully protest in retrospect. I fear the lies they will write about how these now-traumatized students were treated with respect and fairness. Please stand as a council against police brutality, which only works to send the message peaceful social change is impossible. I believe it is. Thank you for your consideration.
5/8/2024 10:16	Valerie Garrison	Comment from city council meeting	<p>Hello, I made a general comment at the May 7 city council meeting about how I oppose spending \$1B on an NHL stadium. I was fairly emotional after hearing other residents talk about their experience being homeless or at a protest regarding Palestine, so I fear I did not present my statement well. Therefore, I'm writing this to provide the information I wished to share and hopefully distill anyone from writing me off as some "crazed, irrational resident".</p> <p>This video from Last Week Tonight with John Oliver sums up the issues I have very well:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcwJt4bcnXs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcwJt4bcnXs</a> In summary: - taxpayers don't need to fund these, billionaire owners have plenty of money to do it - it does NOT create additional economic development, especially when compared to the other types of economic development that could be done with \$1B Salt Lake and Utah is and can be known for other things - skiing, the Olympics, Sundance, amazing national parks. We don't NEED hockey, it won't help us, and it WILL cost us. Please reconsider. Please email back with a good, reason (validated by research) why we should get an NHL team. If you don't have one handy... maybe that's saying something. Valerie Garrison</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 10:20	Heather Severson	Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Ms. Petro, I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the future of Abravanel Hall as discussions about its potential demise are circulating. I think it is a huge mistake to even entertain the possibility of demolishing it in favor of a sports and entertainment district. There are so many reasons this should not even be on the table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would lead to an entire group of musicians losing their livelihood without a suitable hall to play in.</li> <li>• Even if a new hall was built, the best of the best musicians in Utah would go elsewhere in the meantime.</li> <li>• The beautiful acoustics of the hall and the unique design cannot be replicated.</li> <li>• It would be a huge waste of resources and money to tear it down and build something else. We should preserve the past, not try to replace it with the newest, shiniest thing.</li> <li>• Having a world-class orchestra downtown is vital to being a true metropolitan center. If you look at any of the major cities in the U.S. they all have a similar facility and organization.</li> <li>• We are fortunate to have one of the most beautiful halls in the United States, especially compared to other cities of a similar size. I could go on and on, but I suppose that will suffice. I invite you to attend a concert or two as soon as possible (might I recommend the upcoming May 17-18 presentation of Scheherazade) so you can personally experience the power of live music in a world class hall. It would be a shame to make a decision to tear down such a landmark without having first done the research to understand its value and beauty. Thank you for your time. Please show the people of Salt Lake and Utah that you support us and what we value and not just the all-too-powerful developers and their big bucks. Sincerely, Heather Severson</li> </ul>
5/8/2024 10:25	Savanna Shaw	Abravanel Hall	<p>Hello, I know this email might not do much, but I figured if enough people reached out maybe there's a chance we can save Abravanel. The thought of it being torn down is devastating. We NEED to keep the arts alive. Please consider my email along with any others writing in. Thank you! Savanna Shaw</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 10:27	Michele Medina-Ferrone	5th Grade Teacher and Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Victoria: My name is Michele Medina-Ferrone and I am a native Utahn. My first experience at Abravanel Hall was when I was in fifth grade. This was the culmination of my elementary education. All the fifth graders went. I am currently a fifth grade teacher at West Kearns Elementary and I made sure that my fifth graders got to experience the historic building and music. All the students loved it, including the newcomers from other countries. I am also a free-lance violinist. When I was in high school preparing for college, I would go to the symphony with my sister. I was also a second violin in Utah Youth Symphony under the direction of Barbara Ann Scowcroft, and in the springtime, they always would play at Abravanel Hall. We performed Dvorak's 9th Symphony "The New World" in 1999, my senior year. Performing there was always more than exciting – there is a certain peace about Abravanel Hall. I rarely got nervous when I played with a group there, and it became a second home to me because I loved attending nearly every weekend while I was a student. I would visit my then-violin teachers and newly found musical community after concerts, and it was exciting to have a reason to commute from my home in West Valley to downtown, to feel at peace. When the Trax came, I would share a train car with people attending the Utah Jazz, and even though The Delta Center was not my destination, it was exciting to be a part of that fabric. People who were dressed in elegance were surrounded by people in their sports attire, and everyone would get to their destinations and go back home. Throughout the years, I found ways to keep going to Abravanel Hall and attended concerts from Mahler's Symphony #1 performed by The Utah Symphony to other genres like jazz and mariachi. Most recently, since I've been married, seeing the symphony live downtown gives us a reason to dress up and go on a date and go out to drinks and dinner before or after. We now have a family and were one of many to attend "Peter and the Wolf". The tickets sold out so fast, that they had to do a second showing, which is great! This weekend, I plan on attending the Utah Youth Ensembles and Orchestras again. They will play Dvorak's 9th symphony "The New World", which is what I played with them in 1999. Of course, I am taking the whole family. Please reconsider the changes that are being discussed. It would be a shame to displace such an iconic treasure. The longevity of Abravanel Hall ought to continue. Keeping Abravanel Hall in its location will not take away from the sports, the two fields can just continue to coexist. Many concert-goers also attend sporting functions and the other riches that Salt Lake City has to offer. Abravanel Hall has a legacy that can continue for decades. Abravanel Hall is part of Utah's heritage, and adds to our culture. Sincerely, Michele Medina-Ferrone Free-Lance Violinist &amp; Educator Salt Lake City, UT -- Michele Medina-Ferrone</p>
5/8/2024 10:30	Lauren Barlow	<p>Letter to City Council re: safety problem at 1300 S 2100 E intersection</p> <p><b>** Attachment 1 - 4 pages</b></p>	<p>Dear Council Member Petro, Please read the attached letter from the Bonneville Elementary Road Safety Committee. There is a continuing pedestrian safety problem at the intersection of 1300 S 2100 E where Winnie Wolfgramm was killed. This letter is also being sent to Mayor Mendenhall. Please reach out to me with any follow up questions. Thank you, Lauren Barlow Chair, Bonneville Road Safety Committee</p>

May 6, 2024

Dear Mayor Mendenhall and City Council Members,

As you know, on November 30, 2022, 11-year-old Winnie Wolfgramm was hit and killed by a pickup truck as she was walking in a crosswalk at the intersection of 1300 S and 2100 E. While we are grateful for the city's swift action to make adjustments to the timing of the crosswalk lights, the problem persists.

On March 19, 2024 a member of our Road Safety Committee witnessed another person almost hit in the exact same way Winnie was killed, with the right of way to cross, saying by SMS message:

***“I was just getting gas at that infamous gas station (where Winnie was killed) and an adult male was ALMOST hit by a van on the SAME exact spot / corner! He was crossing the road while the van was turning right. The driver looked to the left, saw no cars and turned, nearly hitting that guy! So whatever the city did to improve safety there, is NOT working! Also that dude was at least 6 ft tall, if he was smaller, the van wouldn't see / stop.”***

[Emphasis added]

This near-miss occurred in the same crosswalk where Winnie was killed. This 6-foot-tall adult pedestrian was crossing according to crosswalk instructions and it was broad daylight – mid-afternoon. This particular crosswalk remains a dangerous intersection for pedestrians, and needs to be improved immediately.

Since the terrible day 17 months ago when Winnie was killed, the Bonneville community (including parents, administrators and neighbors) continue to work together to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and those on scooters.

We have partnered with the city's Department of Transportation to alter the flow of Bonneville car traffic before and after school to minimize congestion on 1900 E, an already busy neighborhood thoroughfare. We lobbied for and were granted an additional crossing guard by the city's Compliance department to improve safety for students as they enter and exit school

grounds from the field behind the school. This had historically been a dangerous and unsupervised location. We have instituted a road safety curriculum at school to train children how to navigate neighborhood roads safely as they walk, bike, and scoot to and from school. (We are a walking school and have no busing.)

We have also reinforced safe driving practices among parents and are currently working with Councilman Dugan and the city's Livable Streets group. We are utilizing the Livable Streets plan's graphics and research to educate adults about why they should follow speed limits and prevent distracted driving.

As a result of the March 19th incident, we reached back out to Jon Larsen. In emails between us over the last month, Jon has indicated that pulling the crosswalk away from the intersection (i.e. further south on 2100 E) would improve pedestrian visibility for drivers. When we inquired about when the city could make this change, Jon stated:

“If we decide this is the best path forward, the next step would be to ask for budget in the next round of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds.

The next round for CIP asks opens up this fall for projects that would be funded in the following year's budget. We would probably lump the ask in with a handful of other similar projects around the city.”

We appreciate Jon's accessibility and responsiveness. We also recognize that his department's options are constrained by budgets and annual cycles and this is why we are reaching out to our city's leadership.

Every moment the dangers of the subject intersection are not addressed puts a life at risk, which is why we are reaching out to you, the Mayor and City Council. You have the power to decide whether you want to swiftly change a deadly crosswalk or take more than a year to add it to the CIP list for 2025.

Our Bonneville Road Safety Committee, as well as the community leaders and stakeholders signed below, request that you do everything in your power to prevent another casualty in the crosswalk at the corner of 1300 S and 2100 E by immediately changing the design of this crosswalk and/or making additional signage/traffic flow improvements. Perhaps left turns should be prohibited from westbound 1300 S. Perhaps this intersection should become a four-way stop with raised crosswalks. Perhaps a median with horizontal deflection should be installed. Maybe a curb extension/bulbout could be utilized. (see examples below)

All options should be on the table and they should be considered today, not in three months, then implemented next year. The crosswalk where Winnie was killed 17 months ago continues to be a terrible safety hazard. There are emergency funds and manpower that could be summoned right away to keep us, our neighbors and our children safe as we attempt to cross a neighborhood street according to crosswalk instructions.

Please demonstrate Salt Lake City's commitment to becoming the first Vision Zero city in Utah. Please honor Winnie and save future lives at the intersection of 1300 S and 2100 E.

Respectfully,

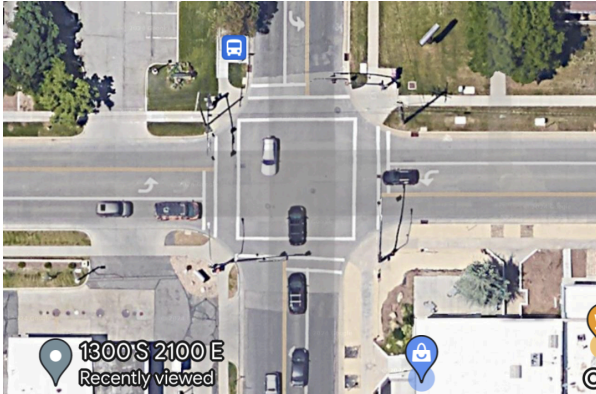
Lauren Barlow, Chair, Bonneville Road Safety Committee  
Julia Jacobs, Committee Member  
Eddie Karasik, Committee Member  
Julia Oleskey, Committee Member  
Annie Leys, Committee Member  
Rita Sharshiner, Committee Member  
Dana Curtis, Committee Member

Karen Holman, Bonneville Principal  
Rachel Day, Bonneville PTO Co-President  
Cori Pugsley, Bonneville PTO Co-President  
Brittney Bergen, Bonneville PTO Co-President  
Jackie Krasne, Upcoming Bonneville PTO Co-President

Sara Bateman, Clayton PTA Co-President  
Emily Waltman, Clayton PTA Co-President  
Lauren Rigby, Clayton PTA Co-President  
Heather Hayes, Clayton PTA Co-President

Kimball Young, Chair, Foothill Sunnyside Community Council

1300 S & 2100 E Intersection



Raised Crosswalk\*



Median with Horizontal Deflection\*



Curb Extension/Bulbout\*





\*Source: [www.slc.gov/transportation/toolkit](http://www.slc.gov/transportation/toolkit)

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5/8/2024 10:38	Kate LITTLE	Abravanel Hall tear down !?!	Hello Victoria: I write regarding the proposed downtown re-development district associated with the arrival of a new NHL team. I understand that this re-development could include a tear down of Abravanel Hall. While I am pro-sports, pro-development and pro-housing downtown, I am solidly against undermining our thriving downtown professional arts community. Utah Symphony is the lynch-pin of our Utah arts scene. The acoustics-quality of Abravanel Hall are as essential to the symphony as is ice-quality to a hockey team. If Abravanel Hall is torn down we will lose the Utah Symphony as we know it, and losing this lynch-pin this will lead to a weakening and deterioration of our vibrant downtown arts community. Professional sports are essential, and so are the professional arts. For the audience, one provides competitive emotional release; the other sublime emotional release: both essential qualities of human experience. If we support a sports mecca in an arts desert, we create an imbalance of possible experience, and undermine the livelihood of our downtown. With a little compromise, we could have a win-win situation. Carve out a few acres from the Smith request, preserve Abravanel Hall, and support both professional sports and professional arts in downtown Salt Lake City. As re-development plans are pursued, please question the need to destroy Abravanel Hall and vote to preserve it. Thank you, Kate Little
5/8/2024 10:41	Francois De la Giroday	From Francois de la Giroday	Dear Ms. Petro, In this proposed mega complex of Bars, Sports, and "Entertainment" over 100 acres In downtown SLC, WHAT do you think will be the fate of Abravanel Symphony Hall and the Museum Of Contemporary Art...poor second cousins to the mega millions that may come from Hockey and Basket Ball. And realistically into whose pockets, really, will all this improvement and development flow ? The favor of a reply would be appreciated. Thank you, Francois de la Giroday
5/8/2024 10:43	Carol Spackman Moss	Abravanel Hall	Hi Victoria, I read an article in the SL Tribune today that Abravanel Hall might be demolished to make way for the Smiths' entertainment district. I have been hearing from people who are shocked and alarmed, as I am, that it is even being considered. Abravanel Hall is a Utah cultural treasure. I have attended concerts and programs there for years and think it is a magnificent building with incomparable acoustics. Don't you have a background in music? I'm sure have attended concerts there, too. Would you let me know what you know about the proposed project? Thank you, Carol Rep. Carol Spackman Moss Utah House of Representatives District 34,
5/8/2024 10:50	Marghie Mannos	Sports District	Disgusted that Ryan Smith can dictate the future of downtown slc. Keep Symphony Hall! Marghie Mannos - Long time SLC Resident - Jazz Fan - Voter
5/8/2024 10:53	Erna Williams	Land grab	I'm a registered voter and pay taxes to SLC. I am against this land grab that is funded by the taxpayers. Do not allow this to continue. Erna Williams
5/8/2024 10:54	Richard Steiner	NHL entertainment district	The proposal to have the city pay for a substantial part of a development which gives the developer access to all tax revenue generated in the area is absurd. The loss of Abravanel hall in the deal makes it even more absurd. Paying for the city's share with a sales tax hike, a truly regressive tax since it affects the lower income households more than affluent individuals is an abomination. You are asking those least likely to enjoy the "benefits" of the development to shoulder a financial burden to support it. And who will pay for the police and fire protection and garbage services in the district. It seems our Mayor and city council are being blinded by the bright lights of development and are not paying attention to the needs and desires of their constituencies. Richard Steiner Salt Lake City



Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 10:56	James Miska	Opposition to Entertainment district rezone	To whom it may concern, I want to be pointed toward what information is publicly available about the proposed Entertainment district rezone that includes the possible destruction of Abravanel Hall. I have seen nothing in my inbox from the City about this, nor about any current public comment period, though I am signed up for many regular emails that usually do concern matters like these in Salt Lake City. Please respond as soon as possible. Thank you. -James Miska District 4
5/8/2024 11:14	D Lee Thompson	STOP, STOP, STOP THE NIGHTMARE OF BUILDING! BEVER MIND UGLY	STOP, STOP, STOP THE NIGHTMARE OF BUILDING! BEVER MIND UGLY
5/8/2024 12:32	Sue Nelson	Tracks Line to and from Little America to Airport and Airport to Little America	I was appalled at the unsafe and stish of the trip from the North temple at first West out to the airport and back what a disgrace to welcome persons to our city with the drug use and homelessness of our city. All the money going to sports and we can not clean up the area. Welcome to your slums the signs should say. Is this truly how we want to portray our city???? Let's get this area cleaned up! Take the golf course on 2100 South and make it a homeless Neighborhood with restrooms and showers with a care center. Give them an address so they can get jobs and the police present to keep the peace. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
5/8/2024 12:34	Janice Lew	Ballpark Station Area Rezone and Text Amend	May 7, 2024 City Council Members: As the Ballpark Community continues to grow in population and built environment, it will be necessary for the city to address competing land use needs and increasing land scarcity. The 2022 Ballpark Station Area Plan identifies the community's need for additional park acres and equitable public investment to serve current and future residents and visitors. This plan also identifies future uses and neighborhood amenities if the city decides to make an operational change on the Public Utilities site at 1530 S. West Temple. 2015 Plan Salt Lake sets a 2040 goal of every resident living within a half-mile of public lands. Working towards this objective will require creative strategies for land acquisition and community investment. As the Bees baseball team prepares to move to a new field, the City has already preserved the Public Land zoning of the Ballpark and North parking lot. Since this property is city owned, please consider the unique opportunity to create a space that celebrates the character of our neighborhood . Adaptive reuse of the site could transform the site to create a sense of place and pride for our community. It is critical that our community's park and public green space needs are carefully considered and clearly articulated through the city's planning processes. We have an opportunity to create an attractive, innovative, and inclusive urban green space while adapting an existing building. Janice Lew
5/8/2024 12:36	Aubree Shelley	Save Abravanel Hall	To the decision-makers of Salt Lake City: I plead with you to do the right thing and preserved Abravanel Hall in its current location as the cultural treasure that it is. As a teen I got to play in this hall. It was an amazing experience for a young musician. My children have attended concerts here as part of a well-rounded and full education on public school field trips. Educating about the arts is so important. Sports for entertainment do not enrich us as a society. They are a money maker, period. Please protect the Cultural Legacy of this building and the ensembles that benefit our society. Thank you. Aubree Shelley Utah citizen

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 12:36	Susan KLINKER	Opposition to Northpoint Area Annexation Plan	Dear Council, I am writing to oppose the Northpoint Area Annexation Plan. This area includes environmentally sensitive tracts of land that support wildlife, fragile ecosystems and wetlands. I am opposed to an increase of industrial and distribution uses in this area along with its corresponding truck traffic which will further stress riparian zones and migratory bird populations. These critical areas should be preserved as open space with a minimum 300 ft buffer along the Jordan River. Alternative plans for increased density in other areas of the city should be the priority. Based on Salt Lake's unique geography, and growing human populations, new industrial uses should be responsibly planned outside of the Wasatch Valley's airshed. Thank you for your stewardship of our critical waterways. Susan Klinker -- Susan Klinker
5/8/2024 12:38	Olivia Marron	New Budget	Hey there, I'm reaching out as a Salt Lake County resident in regards to the assault and aggression that was displayed by "public servants". There are few times that I can say I have been more disgusted by police interaction with community. We pay tax dollars into the public servant industry here & I can't imagine how much was thrown away last Monday while students were being brutally attacked by police in riot gear. Shame on every single one of you for priding yourselves on being the most progressive and diverse city council. Your ancestors are rolling in their graves watching what side of history you're all putting yourselves on. The University of Utah is a disgrace because of the university president, police, and board who are loud on silencing their students. They remain silent on a genocide refuse to disclose and divest. No justice, no peace. May you make it on the right side of history. Y'all will be voted out. In Disappointment, Olivia Marron
5/8/2024 12:40	Ambreen Khan	Public comment 5/7/24	I meant 4/29 , 4/30 and 5/2 re: police brutality On Tuesday, May 7, 2024, Ambreen Khan wrote: Hello, I am writing as a constituent from district 2 that I am VERY concerned about the increase in the budget for policing, especially on the west side. I feel strongly that this will not protect our community and instead cause further gentrification of our neighborhoods. I feel strongly that public has not been consulted on this increase in the police budget. I also feel that public should be consulted on the equity trainings for the police since public input can be pertinent in deciding the needs of those who have negative police interactions. For example, how violently the police showed up at the University of Utah campus this past Monday 5/2 and brutalized the students and community members of Salt Lake City. The use of our taxes should be a conversation with the constituents. Thank you! Ambreen -- Ambreen Khan (she/her)
5/8/2024 12:43	Krista Cook	thank you from district 1	I tried to speak tonight but i guess time was too short. As a mother of little leaguers I wanted to say thank you for your support of community rec baseball. It means everything to our Rose Park Community and I was touched to see the letters that were written by our community visible at the meeting. Thank you, Community Council! -Krista Cook

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 12:46	Alayna Gunn	SAVE ABRAVANEL HALL!!! 	<p>To whom it may concern, I have such fond memories of attending and performing in concerts at our beloved Abravanel Hall! These experiences have been some of the highlights of my musical journey. PLEASE do not destroy such an incredible building. The arts and music mean so very much to me and my family and friends! So many of my friends and family have expressed how devastating it would be to see Abravanel Hall gone. Music has played a tremendous part in my life and shaped me into the person I am. Having an exquisite hall such as the Abravanel Hall is an incredible way to have a rich cultural experience right here in Utah. Abravanel Hall is a building with rich heritage and legacy and brings the wonderful arts to life in an incredible way. The Utah Symphony deserves an outstanding home such as this and the people of Utah are edified by attending their concerts. Cultural experiences such as concerts expand and edify the soul, bring communities together, help others appreciate live music, inspire fellow musicians, celebrate extraordinary talent, and pay tribute to the creators of incredible works of art through the ages. There has to be another solution rather than destroying Abravanel Hall. The arts deserve a meaningful place in SLC and Abravanel Hall is such an incredible building! Destroying it would be senseless, wasteful, and an utter disgrace and absolute tragedy. I plead with you and implore you to find a better solution so that we may preserve the wonderful heritage of this historic building, honor the legacy of musicians present and past, and continue to edify and enrich the lives of Utah citizens through the incredible cultural experiences found at our beloved Abravanel Hall.  Sincerely, Alayna Johnson</p>
5/8/2024 13:18	Ira Hinckley	NO, NO, NO to SEG!!!	<p>Dear Council, No to corporate welfare for the hostile takeover by SEG of our downtown! No to the destruction of Abravanel Hall! No to NHL in SLC! I have zero interest in going and will not pay one penny in taxes for it!!! Don't fall for their lies about public benefits. We the taxpayers of this city don't want to pay for Billionaires toys. Make them pay it themselves or stay out of our city! Ira Hinckley Resident</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 13:26	Oswaldo Ponce de Leon Landa	Concern Regarding Recent Limitations on Public Comments During City Council Meetings	<p>Esteemed Members of the Salt Lake City Council, I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen regarding the recent limitations imposed on public comments during the open comment period of City Council meetings. As a fundamental aspect of our democratic process, the ability for citizens to freely express their opinions and concerns to their elected representatives is paramount. Any measures that restrict or impede this essential avenue of communication should be carefully reconsidered. Public participation in governance not only strengthens the connection between the government and its constituents but also fosters transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in decision-making processes. By allowing residents to voice their perspectives on matters that directly impact their lives and communities, local policymakers gain valuable insights that can inform more equitable and effective policies. It is with great concern that I have learned of recent changes that seem to curtail the opportunity for meaningful public engagement during City Council meetings. Limiting the number of speakers, shortening the duration of comments, or imposing restrictive criteria for participation may inadvertently silence voices that deserve to be heard. While I understand the need to manage the efficient conduct of meetings and ensure that proceedings remain orderly, it is crucial to strike a balance that upholds both procedural expediency and democratic principles. I urge you to reconsider the current limitations on public comments and explore alternative strategies that preserve the integrity of the public participation process. Furthermore, I encourage the City Council to actively solicit feedback from residents on how to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of public comment procedures. By engaging in dialogue with community members and soliciting their input, policymakers can work collaboratively to develop solutions that better serve the needs and interests of all Salt Lake City residents. In conclusion, I respectfully request that you revisit the recent changes to public comment protocols and take proactive steps to ensure that the voices of the people remain central to the decision-making processes of our city government. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to a continued dialogue on ways to enhance civic engagement in Salt Lake City. Sincerely,</p>
5/8/2024 13:29	Brian Charles Lord	SLC FY 234-25 Budget	<p>Hello Council Member Mano, My name is Brian Lord and I am a constituent of yours in the ballpark/granary neighborhood. I know the budget was just proposed last night so I'm sure you haven't had a whole lot of time to dive into it. I haven't had time to get into the details but I do have concerns about the increase to the Salt Lake City Police Department. I would love to chat with you about the \$10 million increase- Why is it increasing? How is it going to be applied? Who do you get information from suggesting/advising a 7.5% increase. I had a productive 30 minute phone conversation with Council Member Dugan about policing last friday and hope you can find the time to talk. This is a part time job so I understand if that will be difficult. You'll be hearing from me either way. Thank you for your time. - Brian Lord</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 13:31	Albert Lund	Increasing the sale tax and plans	<p>Dear Council Members, As a citizen of Salt Lake City, I have the general expectation that the city council will listen to me and act in the general positive interest. And believe me when I tell you I am opposed to any proposed plan of the council that increases sales tax in Salt Lake City at the behest of Ryan Smith for stimulus. I am further opposed to any action that will cause Abravanel hall to be torn down or lead to renovations that disrupt it's historical character or alter the acoustic properties of the hall. I expect the city council to act in kind. I don't mind an initiative that stimulates the downtown economy through business expansion. I don't mind if Ryan Smith or the Smith group fronts the cash for such a proposal. I don't even mind a lease that constitutes an implicit tax break with a rate of \$1/year. I DO mind a blanket sales tax increase on the entire city that solely contributes to an initiative at the request of the Smith Group, with any terms that state that the proceeds of the tax increase goes solely to the Smith group. If this is the intention of the city council, then this is an asinine abuse of the public trust. If the tax is to be levied, then the funds should go directly to public infrastructure or public initiatives that have the public's approval by referendum, and not to the Smith group. You absolutely should not approve this tax increase as proposed. Furthermore, this plan appears to have been executed in semi-secrecy of obfuscation. For at least 20 years the city council and the mayor's office have acted with subterfuge on matters like this, you had a chance to change this on this significant plan and act in more transparent manner, but the public has had to hear about your plans at the last minute through media sources, which makes you no better than your predecessors. You are abusing the public trust in the most unethical way possible. Change yourselves and be better about communicating proposals to the public, and enact policy that requires a referendum from the public on any proposal that looks remotely like this insane proposal. As a purveyor and long time participant of the fine arts at Abravanel hall, I also feel personally disrespected that the council would even consider touching Abravanel Hall as part of this proposal. The city council needs to be absolutely clear about its intentions with this, and act in a manner that preserves Abravanel Hall, instead of prioritizing sports entertainment over the fine arts. I have no interest in attending sports entertainment in Salt Lake City, but I have a significant interest in attending performances and other events of the kind held at Abravanel Hall, and I want to attend those events at Abravanel Hall, not another venue that replaces the hall. Do this right. Consider your next actions carefully. Albert Lund</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 13:33	Henry Lund	Abravanel Hall	<p>Hello, I am writing due to recent plans being put forth to demolish Abravanel Hall in the downtown area for a new "entertainment district". Abravanel has been a part of this city's culture and arts for years- hundreds of musicians, specifically young musicians and vocalists have benefitted from the presence of the Utah symphony, the Utah Opera, and other music organizations that have utilized the incredible and historic space. It also houses one of our most famous art installations- the Olympic Tower by Dale Chihuly, which pays homage to our hosting of the 2002 Olympics. It is a pillar- both literally and metaphorically- of the Arts Community. I myself have played multiple times in the hall and the lobby as a musician, and it breaks my heart that the opportunities I was fortunate to have in that space are slated to be ripped from up and coming music students. There are so many programs designed to help musicians gain experience that are run by the staff at Abravanel hall- they are all in jeopardy with the suggestion to demolish Abravanel. The plan to destroy Abravanel does not strengthen our community- it weakens it, specifically the Arts Community.. Aside from the emotional, historic and cultural importance of this building- it is actively being used by professional musicians. The destruction of this building will affect not only livelihoods but life-long careers and passions. Some of the musicians in the Utah symphony have been playing in Abravanel Hall since before I was alive- destroying the very place they have built their lives on is cruel and sends a message that the city does not care for musical communities that have thrived and contributed to the city for years. We can have both- there is no reason to destroy the beautiful Abravanel Hall to make space for the Hockey team. Find the strength to do both, do not let Abravanel Hall be demolished. Thank you, Henry Lund</p>
5/8/2024 13:37	Kasey OCONNOR	annexation and zoom was inop for meeting	<p>Victoria is my councilwoman and she knows how adamant myself and neighbors are sick of the 70-80+db noise from the traffic from I215, increased traffic from the soccer fields (which they NEVER did a proper survey of), how they cannot even keep up what they have now, the eyesore and Deadbeat target abandoned home that the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing with. They built massive warehouses right on the other side of the interstate which acts like an echo chamber for all the increased traffic noise. To put it bluntly, till they "FIX" the issues they now have and cannot take care of, they have no buisness expanding anything. Kasey O'Connor</p>
5/8/2024 15:04	Denise Morgan	Protect Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Council, I am writing to demand that the sports and entertainment district deal include explicit protection for Abravanel Hall. I am deeply outraged over the possibility of the destruction of Abravanel Hall. The preservation of this building, with all its architectural and cultural value, should not be in question. The fact that you have offered no assurances that it will be preserved is beyond understanding to me and to many of my friends and neighbors who are dedicated patrons of the Utah Symphony. Maybe the symphony isn't really your thing? Maybe you think a bright shiny new box would be a suitable location for the symphony to perform? For many of us, Abravanel Hall is one of the crown jewels of our city. A beautiful building where you can immerse yourself in the arts. It's something we feel proud of. You can't keep bulldozing the things that make our city special and expect people to keep loving it. Economic development and historical preservation must be given equal consideration. This deal must include protection of Abravanel Hall. Period. Sincerely, Denise Morgan</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/8/2024 16:26	Bim Oliver	Oppose the tax increase	<p>Dear Council Member Puy: I'm writing to strongly encourage your opposition to the proposed sales tax increase intended to finance the Smith Entertainment Group's "revitalization zone." The proposal by Smith Entertainment Group is full of self-interest and entirely lacking in any understanding of the real needs of Salt Lake City and its residents (e.g. "Allowing SEG to keep the money generated by the sales tax increase for 30 years..." Salt Lake Tribune) SEG has presented no real plan—just some vague, idealized concepts—so any projections of economic activity are, to say the least, speculative and certainly don't justify public sector financing. Any serious development proposal—i.e. one that projects valid and reliable returns—can and should be financed entirely by the private sector. There are much more immediate public priorities in Salt Lake City that might justify a sales tax increase. Roads throughout the city are in terrible condition, and congestion is worsening. We continue to grapple with homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. And downtown development presents enough challenges without the complexities of such a broad yet poorly defined "revitalization" initiative. For these and other reasons, the proposed tax increase represents public policy at its worst—misguided and misdirected without substantive public benefit—and I strongly encourage your opposition. I should note that I am writing you even though I don't live in your district, because the decision to approve the proposed tax increase will directly affect me, my neighbors, and residents throughout the city—especially those for whom any tax increase will be a hardship. Thank you for your attention. Bim Oliver Salt Lake City</p>
5/8/2024 16:31	Sarah Richards	Don't touch Abravanel don't hike my taxes	<p>Here is what over size stadiums have done to other cities: <a href="https://youtu.be/5F2Ra9FYYbw?si=9iiFM2V8pKlchVX8">https://youtu.be/5F2Ra9FYYbw?si=9iiFM2V8pKlchVX8</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/rHERCY2PZNU?si=1xQd-CLUIUzlt3T">https://youtu.be/rHERCY2PZNU?si=1xQd-CLUIUzlt3T</a> <a href="https://youtu.be/twmSslStmIk?si=kITFxUq7wxQI6CL">https://youtu.be/twmSslStmIk?si=kITFxUq7wxQI6CL</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/xcwJt4bcnXs?si=yKGbOV5QnL0Dg6k">https://youtu.be/xcwJt4bcnXs?si=yKGbOV5QnL0Dg6k</a>- I already pay for a bunch of crap in this city that I don't want and disagree with. I DO care about and utilize Abravanel Hall. Tearing it down is the historical equivalent of tearing down the Paris Opera house, or La Scala in Italy when it come to Utah history and the history of arts in the west. And if you don't know what those buildings are, then you shouldn't be in charge of deciding the fate of this historic concept hall. There is s wrong enough community surrounding Abravanel and its programs that if it needs to be funding by the city, so be it. We'll keep it going ourselves. But don't use MY income to destroy it and build something I don't want. Nothing about hockey. I'd love for them to have their hockey dreams come true. But it shouldn't be at the expense of an already established and highly valued venue. Sarah Richards</p>
5/9/2024 9:18	Tom Huckin	Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Chris: We are longtime classical music lovers and longtime patrons of Abravanel Hall. Yesterday we read about billionaire Ryan Smith's plan to create an "entertainment district" downtown that could include the demolition of Abravanel. That would be disastrous! Abravanel Hall is one of the foremost symphony concert halls in the entire country and is home to one of the nation's foremost symphony orchestras. Set back from a busy intersection, it's also one of the city's few attractive buildings. Inside, of course, it houses a unique Chihuly glass sculpture. All seats have clear views of the stage and the acoustics are wonderful. Destroying such a beautiful building just to satisfy the whims of a tech billionaire would be outrageous! It could never be rebuilt to its current standard. It would forever be a blot on Salt Lake City's national reputation. We urge you to do everything you can to protect this unique city institution! Thank you. Sincerely, Tom &amp; Christiane Huckin</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/9/2024 9:21	Elizabeth Mcknight	Concerns about SLC Downtown plans	Hi Chris! Thank you for the work you do on our behalf in Marmalade. I am hearing concerning rumors about the plans to require SLC taxpayers alone to support expansion of the Salt Palace through a 0.5% tax increase, as dictated by the anti-Salt Lake City State Legislature. I have also heard that Abravanel Hall is under threat of the wrecking ball as part of this expansion. There hasn't been an effort to connect with Salt Lake Citizens about the downsides of this plan. Please address these concerns at the council meeting tonight. Thank you! Elizabeth McKnight
5/9/2024 9:25	Barbara Cramer	Abravanel Hall	Dear Chris, It is ESSENTIAL that we keep the symphony and our wonderful Abravanel Hall in downtown. Please don't allow the rich sports fanatics to take over. One of the reasons we love living in the Avenues is the proximity to the arts. That hall belongs to the people, and unless a majority of us want to sell it to the hockey people, it should stay! Please! Barbara Cramer
5/9/2024 9:35	Kerry Wickman	Abravanel Hall	Dear Councilman Wharton, As a side note to why I am writing, let me first mention that you took my daughter, Elena Wickman to see Hamilton a number of years back when she won some sort of historical/political writing contest at West High School. Thank you so kindly for that. It was an amazing opportunity for her. She's never forgotten your generosity. Now for my other purpose in writing. I just received news that a major league NHL hockey team is headed to SLC and that the team's new owner, Ryan Smith, is asking Salt Lake County for a 99-year lease on 100-acres of downtown property, which would include a 0.5% Salt Lake City sales tax to re-develop the property. Rumor has it that this project may well include the destruction of Abravanel Hall, with neither plans nor funds to replace this incredible architectural and artistic icon in the heart of our beautiful city. Firstly, I believe that a vigorous arts scene is essential to any vibrant city. Large sports arenas are not what we need. Secondly, Abravanel Hall is still young, strong and incredibly useful. I've seen many amazing concerts, programs and performances there, and hope to see many more. I see no reason to destroy it. Please speak out on this issue and vote to stipulate that Abravanel Hall's 5 acres is omitted from Ryan Smith's 100 acre request. We paid for Abravanel Hall and it is our to keep. I hope you feel the same. Thank you so much. Sincerely, Kerry Wickman
5/9/2024 9:40	David SCHEER	Abravanel Hall	Hi Chris- I'm very concerned about the plan for a sports complex that threatens Abravanel Hall. Abravanel Hall is a gem of a building, both the handsome exterior that makes a great urban space, and the interior, which is not only dramatic and beautiful but the hall itself which has among the best acoustics in the world. It received an national AIA award for its 25th anniversary. The building is literally irreplaceable. Practically speaking, no one will be willing to spend the money to build an equally beautiful and functional hall. Tearing it down to make room for a commercial sports mall would be unconscionable. I hope you will do everything you can to make sure this doesn't happen. Best, David David Scheer
5/9/2024 9:43	Ali Barnes	Abravanel Hall	Dear Mr Wharton, While I am very happy to have downtown SLC become a center for sports, please do NOT let us lose Abravanel Hall. We need both culture and sports to be a vibrant city. Please do not allow the five acres that the Hall sits on to be included in Ryan Smith's plan. It doesn't have to be one or the other. We can have the best of both worlds with creative planning. Thank you for your time and service. Alice Barnes



Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/9/2024 10:30	Jonathan Ramras	NHL impact on Abravanel Hall	I am a member of the ECC. We sat down with EVA and discussed the impact of NHL Downtown. I am in agreement with supporting the NHL deal but do not want to fully bend over and accept every part of what the Smith group wants. Eva has a list of items ECC suggested. I am writing as an independent citizen on this message. Abravanel Hall is an ICONIC Architectural landmark in the City and can be considered a national treasure. the acoustics in the existing space to one of the best in the country if not the world. It is part of the history of the city in line with other Church owned facilities and the City County Bldg to mention a few. This Bldg MUST NOT be torn down....! Perhaps the arts space could be modified or moved but not the Hall. Thank you for your concideration.
5/9/2024 15:10	Rick Glem	Phone call to City Council	I would like to express my feeling about the Utilities increase, You guys doing it every years, You are pushing us who's living on the budget that event afraid to flush the toilet. This is abuse. You can use the money on adding the bike lane but why don't you use that money on the utility issues and helping people. If you have any problems you can contact me
5/9/2024 16:05	Marguerite Henderson	Abravanel Hall	I'm hearing a half dozen different stories on what the two mayors are in favor of doing with the Abravanel Halk? We don't want it torn down for a "sports & entertainment" facility! Where are we on this? SLTrib said you're in favor of demolishing it! Please give me a straight answer! Thank you! Marguerite Henderson
5/9/2024 16:07	Amanda Brown	Abravanel Hall Must Be Saved	Dear Council, We were season subscribers last year to the Utah Symphony and have attended concerts in Abravanel Hall for decades. Tearing it down and replacing it with a hockey stadium is reprehensible and using tax payers' money do so is unacceptable. Classical music lovers and supporters of arts and culture will stand up against this action. In Sincerity, Amanda Brown Utah resident
5/10/2024 9:06	Krista Cook	Rose Park Baseball League	I must have had tech difficulties because I got on at 7 :( I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of rose park baseball for efforts to help our league continue! It means everything to our community. ☐

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 9:10	Hannah Thomas-Hollands	5/7 city council work session concerns	<p>Dear Councilwoman Petro, I watched the livestream of yesterday afternoon's city council meeting regarding the downtown revitalization zone and was very disappointed with the lack of substantive questions for Mike Maughan of SEG representative, Mayor Mendenhall, or Mayor Wilson. The majority of the council lauded SEG's transparency and benevolence to invest in our city, but I left with more questions than answers. First and foremost, as a tax paying Salt Laker I am outraged that any portion of the sales tax increase would be funneled directly to SEG. Municipal taxes should be administered by and for our government ONLY, and I struggle to understand how this is even legal, let alone the best solution. I cannot believe that this anti-democratic scheme was not probed for further explanation. Additionally, there were so few details given during the SEG presentation - but I fear that this was strategic. If SEG is only selling lofty promises with no specificity, we as a city don't actually know what we're buying. Hearsay of these plans has shifted many times in these past few weeks, and impacted organizations (like the Utah Symphony) are affected TODAY by the loud churning of the rumor mill. This has become a very high-profile issue for our city, and SEG is putting the cart before the horse. Their urgent demand for significant buy-in does not match their preparedness in planning - or at least their willingness to share their plans. On top of this, I'm wondering what keeps SEC (and their investments) at the table if the venture isn't as profitable as they project. It is not uncommon for franchise sports teams to be bought and sold - so what happens then? I realize it's unromantic to think about a prenup before the wedding, but when this amount of funding is at stake, precautions must be taken. I'm sure it's frustrating when government moves slowly. We live in a lightning-speed society of instant gratification, and SEG's promises are alluring. However, the size and scope of SEG's vision for downtown demands the plodding, thankless work that is democracy. We citizens of Salt Lake City deserve the thriving, interconnected version of downtown that we heard about - but on our terms, not on the whims of a billionaire. Sincerely, Hannah Thomas-Hollands Rose Park</p>
5/10/2024 9:34	Bim Oliver	Oppose the tax increase	<p>Dear Council Member Petro: I'm writing to strongly encourage your opposition to the proposed sales tax increase intended to finance the Smith Entertainment Group's "revitalization zone." The proposal by Smith Entertainment Group is full of self-interest and entirely lacking in any understanding of the real needs of Salt Lake City and its residents (e.g. "Allowing SEG to keep the money generated by the sales tax increase for 30 years..." Salt Lake Tribune) SEG has presented no real plan—just some vague, idealized concepts—so any projections of economic activity are, to say the least, speculative and certainly don't justify public sector financing. Any serious development proposal—i.e. one that projects valid and reliable returns—can and should be financed entirely by the private sector. There are much more immediate public priorities in Salt Lake City that might justify a sales tax increase. Roads throughout the city are in terrible condition, and congestion is worsening. We continue to grapple with homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. And downtown development presents enough challenges without the complexities of such a broad yet poorly defined "revitalization" initiative. For these and other reasons, the proposed tax increase represents public policy at its worst—misguided and misdirected without substantive public benefit—and I strongly encourage your opposition. I should note that I am writing you even though I don't live in your district, because the decision to approve the proposed tax increase will directly affect me, my neighbors, and residents throughout the city—especially those for whom any tax increase will be a hardship. Thank you for your attention. Bim Oliver</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 9:35	Jeannine Marlowe	Abravanel Hall tear down / D6	<p>Mr. Dugan, there are rumors and suggestions that Abravanel Hall could be torn down to make room for the new sports center in downtown SLC. If this is true it absolutely must NOT happen. Abravanel Hall is one of the few treasures in Salt Lake city and must be preserved at all costs and measures. I have very mixed feelings about this whole proposed project--more construction downtown when it is already a nightmare down there to drive, walk and park plus no use of tax payers money should be used to benefit the already wealthiest of our State. On my opinion, Ryan Smith is out of control trying to be totally in control of the city. Also, last night I was so pleased to see a police officer flagging speeder on 18th East by the school. As he said, people speed here. Yes they do and it's getting worse. We need a neighborhood campaign to help with this. People are going to get hurt, again. Please let me know of what you are aware of--Thank you, Jeannine Marlowe</p>
5/10/2024 9:37	Mercedes Smith	Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Dan, The idea of a wrecking ball smashing into Abravanel Hall affects me so viscerally, so violently, that I had to write to you directly. It feels reckless to propose so cavalierly the destruction of one of the few truly beautiful structures in Salt Lake City. I fear that it's taken for granted the rarity of having a hall that combines the tasteful opulence, aesthetic balance, and pleasing acoustics of Abravanel. It feels calloused to so flippantly raze a building that was built with money provided by county residents by ballot initiative. I have many questions. • If AH is rebuilt within the revitalization zone exactly what money will be paying for the new hall? (the bond/tax?) • If the above happens, will SEG be our landlord? Would there be county or city oversight? • If a new hall is built at a different location downtown, where will the money come from? (are you going to make the symphony put forth its own bill/request to voters for public funding AFTER citizens have already had the new tax burden upon them? • Supposedly renovating AH may be more expensive than building new -based on what hard information? Do you have renovation quotes or bids from multiple firms to prove this? • Have you considered that there may be more community blowback than expected if it appears the city/county "let" a billionaire knock down a world-class architectural gem that has outstanding acoustics, and was already built and paid for by the taxpayers? I'm all for revitalizing the area between AH and the Delta Center, but even that revitalization (surrounding construction/our temporary displacement) will have a negative financial impact on USUO (the State's largest performing arts non-profit). Therefore, a significant portion of the funds from the bond/tax should be allocated to the renovation of AH and ensuring that a billionaire's sports and entertainment district has no negative impact whatsoever on the architectural treasure that is Abravanel Hall and its resident performers. I urge the city and county to: • Preserve and renovate Abravanel Hall using a portion of the Revitalization Zone funds and do not allow SEG to become the landlord AH • Make the east end of the revitalization district an Arts Complex (preserve Abravanel hall, museum, adding a new Opera House, etc) equal in weight and importance to the Delta Center on the west end. The arena and concert hall should anchor each end of the revitalized area. Thank you for your time. Onward, Mercedes Smith</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Principal Flute, Utah Symphony</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 9:37	Jeannine Marlowe	today's 3:55 meeting	<p>I am dismayed and more concerned than ever after viewing the meeting with SEG--I have never seen or heard so much ass-kissing. Obviously, everything is a go and a done deal. I would like to comment on your very valid comment about your constituents not feeling welcome in downtown. I so agree with you and it is a huge concern. However, it is not buildings that keep people apart; it is attitudes, stereotypes and, frankly, racism that must be overcome. I agree, that the opening up of the area would be helpful but I suspect that it is the other that will keep your friends from this new mecca. The question is and always has been how to bridge the sides--it's not be tearing down of building and building new ones. I am 75 years old and a forever resident of SLC and this issue has always been a problem. Believe me, tearing down buildings and building mighty arenas will not be the answer. I wish I had the answer. That's what we should be working towards as a community.</p>
5/10/2024 9:39	David Porter	Abravanel Hall and SEG / D6	<p>Dear Councilman Dugan, Thank you for serving your District 4 constituents so ably and advocating for Salt Lake City in general. My name is David, and I am a musician in the Utah Symphony, having played in the ensemble for almost thirty years now. Like so many of us in the orchestra and in the community, Abravanel Hall has a special place in my heart. At this point in my career, I have played thousands of concerts at this beautiful venue, a gift to the community from Salt Lake taxpayers. Many of these concerts have been free concerts for children from all over the valley, often their first concert experience. I love watching our young audiences experience the hall for the first time, their eye full of wonder, captivated by Abravanel's legendary acoustics and beauty. Our Salt Lake City community needs a strong and vital arts presence in downtown, and our community illustrated the depth of their commitment to the arts when they voted to pay for Abravanel Hall via ballot initiative. It feels reckless to propose so cavalierly the destruction of one of the few truly beautiful structures in Salt Lake City. I fear that we take for granted the rarity of having a hall that combines the tasteful opulence, aesthetic balance, and pleasing acoustics of Abravanel. Money should be allocated for its preservation and refurbishment before any agreement is entered into with SEG. It feels calloused to so flippantly raise a building that was built with money provided by county residents by ballot initiative. All should not be at the mercy of expediency. I also have a separate question regarding the agreement with SEG. Am I understanding correctly that SEG is required to keep only one professional team in Salt Lake City to fulfill their agreement with the state and local government? So, hypothetically, it would be possible to for SEG to sell the Jazz but retain the Coyotes? Beyond keeping a sports team here, are there any other requirements regarding what they build and how, or a requirement for them to spend all the tax monies they receive within a certain timeframe? Gratefully, David David Porter</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 9:41	Veronica Kulig	Vote NO!	<p>Dear Mr. Dugan, My name is Veronica Kulig and I am a citizen of Cottonwood Heights, UT. I have been a resident in the state of Utah since October, 1991 when I was hired as a violinist for the Utah Symphony following a national audition. My previous residences were in Boston, Massachusetts and Bloomfield, Connecticut. I am a graduate of Boston University and the New England Conservatory of Music. One of the marvelous things that I first noticed upon arriving in Utah was of the appreciation for arts and culture. Salt Lake City is home to a full-time symphony orchestra, an opera company and a ballet company to name a few. Stepping onto the stage of Abravanel for the first time was an experience I will never forget. Abravanel Hall, which the symphony calls its home ranks as one of the finest concert halls in the nation, both acoustically and aesthetically. The gentleman who was the acoustic engineer, Cyril M. Harris is world renowned. Abravanel Hall opened in 1979 at the cost of twelve million dollars, approximately fifty-two million today. The construction took three years. The design committee included Maurice Abravanel, O. C. Tanner and Jack Tanner, among others. Abravanel Hall was designed strictly as a concert hall. Abravanel Hall is a local and national treasure. The balconies inside Abravanel Hall and in the lobby are covered with gold leaf, imported from Italy and purchased by O. C. Tanner. The brass chandeliers include 1,8000 hand cut Bohemian crystals imported from Austria and Czechoslovakia. A beautiful glass tower by Dale Chihuly adorns the lobby of Abravanel Hall. If you have never heard the Utah Symphony play a concert in Abravanel Hall or have never experienced the pure aesthetic beauty of this treasure, I strongly urge you to do so. Upon hearing of the imminent razing of this historical, iconic and gorgeous treasure, I thought it was a joke. Sadly, it is not a joke. Our politicians are ready and willing to raze Abravanel Hall. This is a mockery of all that is great in Utah. Please consider the people who you represent! Additionally, I do not want to pay a one-half percent increase in sales tax only to have it go directly into the pocket of a billionaire who does not represent my values. The cost of living in Utah is already exceedingly high for most families and citizens of Utah. This tax will cost Utah families approximately one-hundred dollars per year. Please reconsider your choice to demolish this treasure! Sincerely, Veronica H. Kulig, Utah Symphony Violinist (1991-present) ICSOM Delegate, Utah Symphony   Utah Opera</p>
5/10/2024 9:43	Lily Martindale	Concerns Regarding Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Salt Lake City Council Members, My name is Lily Martindale. I am writing to express my concern about the potential destruction of historic Abravanel Hall for Utah's new NHL team. I grew up in Herriman, with music and the arts playing a very influential role in my life. My mom is a classically trained pianist who studied at the University of Utah, and I recall early memories of her performing solo or with the Utah Symphony at Abravanel Hall. In high school, I joined my school's orchestra and symphony club, which was an amazing opportunity for students to attend performances downtown, including at Abravanel Hall. These performances inspired me and enriched my life, fostering an appreciation for music and the ability it has to connect and empower people. Recently, I heard about the potential removal of Abravanel Hall to make room for Utah's NHL team. While I am excited for this team and the opportunities it brings to our state, I am saddened to hear that it may come at the expense of the arts in Salt Lake City. If this is the case, will Abravanel Hall be rebuilt? Where would that funding come from, when Smith Entertainment Group has already requested a 0.5% sales and use tax to fund the new sports developments? I implore you to please consider the community benefits brought by Abravanel Hall, the livelihood of musicians, and the historic value of the venue when making your decision regarding Smith Entertainment Group's proposal. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Lily Martindale Utah Resident</p>
5/10/2024 9:44	Steve Boyer	Abravanel Hall	<p>Please please please do everything possible to save Abravanel Hall!!! This architectural jewel in the heart of our city brings joy and culture to so many. It has been a beloved gathering place hosting a diverse array of events for the community. We are begging you - Please do not let it be demolished!</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 9:55	Norm Ad	Comment	It's disheartening to learn that Ryan Smith wants to obtain the property east of the Delta Center where Abravanel hall sits. One can only imagine what his plans are. My guess is it would be torn down to make way for something that fits his vision of what our downtown Salt Lake should look like. From what I understand in five years the property could not be touched. I assume this is why Mr. Smith would want the property now. it is all fine and well to let him develop his entertainment district but we do not need his group to decide what all of downtown should be. Can we please hit the brakes a bit? Respectfully Submitted, Marianne Campbell
5/10/2024 9:56	Denise Chancellor	Entertainment redo	Hi Dan, I am appalled that Abravanel Hall may be demolished to make way for a new "entertainment" swath in downtown Salt Lake City, as envisioned by entrepreneur Ryan Smith. First, Abravanel Hall provides entertainment. Second, the building is iconic. Salt Lake already has a dearth of new cookie cutter buildings; we don't want or need more of them. Third, I thought I could count on you to not waste resources. Abravanel Hall still has many years of useful life. Why squander taxpayer money by ripping it down. Fourth, where are the funds to come from to rebuild a new symphony hall and where will it be located? I am totally opposed to this marina about a new sports center. Such venues have a proven record of being money losers. This pie in the sky dream at taxpayers' expense will be not exception. Denise Chancellor
5/10/2024 9:58	Shauna Sloan	Save Abravanel Hall	Mr. Dugan, I am extremely concerned about the proposal to renovate or replace Symphony Hall. This is a beautiful structure with a critical function for our city. We cannot allow a local billionaire to destroy the arts in our city -- not to mention forcing city taxpayers to pay for a new stadium for 30 years. If Ryan Smith wants a hockey stadium, let him build it at the Fairpark! Leave Abravanel Hall alone! Sincerely, Shauna Sloan
5/10/2024 9:59	Paula Morris	Abravanel Hall	After reading Ryan Smith's application I, and thousands of others, want to know what will happen to Abravanel Hall. The application mentions leasing the land where Abravanel Hall currently resides. It also mentions significant alternations to roads, etc. There is now a petition on change.org started by a young man in the Utah Youth Symphony. He posted it on Saturday and it now has 15,000 signatures. That's 15,000 signatures in only 3 days. <a href="https://www.change.org/p/save-abravanel-hall">https://www.change.org/p/save-abravanel-hall</a> Sign the Petition Save Abravanel Hall <a href="http://www.change.org">www.change.org</a> I hope the City Council recognizes the importance of Abravanel Hall. It would be an immeasurable loss for any changes to the building or to move it. By the way, the Chihuly art piece cannot be moved by contract with Dale Chihuly. Someone should look that up. Again, our family is opposed to the sales tax increase. SLC voters should get a chance to vote on the issue, not just the City Council. Paula Morris

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 10:00	Heather Severson	Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Mr. Dugan, I am writing to express my grave concerns regarding the future of Abravanel Hall as discussions about its potential demise are circulating. I think it is a huge mistake to even entertain the possibility of demolishing it in favor of a sports and entertainment district. There are so many reasons this should not even be on the table:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would lead to an entire group of musicians losing their livelihood without a suitable hall to play in.</li> <li>• Even if a new hall was built, the best of the best musicians in Utah would go elsewhere in the meantime.</li> <li>• The beautiful acoustics of the hall and the unique design cannot be replicated.</li> <li>• It would be a huge waste of resources and money to tear it down and build something else. We should preserve the past, not try to replace it with the newest, shiniest thing.</li> <li>• Having a world-class orchestra downtown is vital to being a true metropolitan center. If you look at any of the major cities in the U.S. they all have a similar facility and organization.</li> <li>• We are fortunate to have one of the most beautiful halls in the United States, especially compared to other cities of a similar size. I could go on and on, but I suppose that will suffice. I invite you to attend a concert or two as soon as possible (might I recommend the upcoming May 17-18 presentation of Scheherazade) so you can personally experience the power of live music in a world class hall. It would be a shame to make a decision to tear down such a landmark without having first done the research to understand its value and beauty. Thank you for your time. Please show the people of Salt Lake and Utah that you support us and what we value and not just the all-too-powerful developers and their big bucks. Sincerely, Heather Severson</li> </ul>
5/10/2024 10:01	Lisette Gibson	Abravanel Hall	<p>Hello Dan, Since you are our representative at the City, I am hoping you can shed some light on the Abravanel hall articles and petitions that are popping up regarding its demise-destruction over hockey coming to Salt Lake. There was a SLTrib article a day or two ago. I'm sure you saw it. Also, we strongly object and oppose to having Abravanel Hall destroyed. It is a treasure. Also, Salt Lake City residents / taxpayers should not be hit up for paying for any of the hockey team's future building. This includes the possibly removal of Abravanel Hall which we as residents probably helped pay for. A prompt reply would be appreciated. Lisette Gibson Salt Lake City resident (District 6).</p>
5/10/2024 13:27	Anonymous Constituent	Voicemail call to City Council Re: SEG & Homelessness	<p>Hi, I am just calling to suggest that sometime in the near future the Mayor and her Council will actually do something and will follow through with a proposal to actually do something for the homeless rather than the mega-rich that want to build a sports dynasty.</p>
5/10/2024 13:29	Sara Penny	Please Save Abravanel Hall	<p>Abravanel Hall is a state jewel. It serves not just Salt Lake, but all of Utah. I have brought students from Cedar City for performances over the years as well as purchasing tickets for my daughter's family that lives in northern Utah. I am old enough that I was able to meet Maurice Abravanel when he came to Cedar City in the 60s. He was a musical giant who left us a great legacy. This hall represents much more than a disposable building. It is absolutely essential that it be preserved. Thank you for your service. Best wishes, Sara Penny</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/10/2024 13:33	Eric Povilus	SLC Budget Thoughts / Opinions	<p>SLC Council Members: Here are my thoughts and input for the upcoming Budget cycle: (1) ROADS, ROADS, and ROADS... we need some serious maintenance increase and attention to filling potholes and basic resurfacing. Money has been robbed and taken away from street maintenance during the past years. We do not need elaborate reconstruction of streets, we do not need new curbs/gutters, and we do not need new bike lanes... we do not need to spend excess dollars on speed control mechanisms... we just need BASIC STREET RESURFACING EVERYWHERE. (2) PARKS, PARKS, and PARKS... how about actually spending and funding BASIC Park maintenance? Our parks stink. As a youth soccer coach it is day and night from 10 years ago to today. (3) I implore you NOT to add additional funding to the Mayor's pet projects of homelessness, social related staff, affordable housing... spend what we have as last year's baseline but do NOT increase... use those proposed increases to fund and fix STREETS, ROADS, CRIME PREVENTION for the CURRENT RESIDENTS. It is not hard to see why the SLCSO is shrinking and why middle/upper class families are moving out of SLC. (4) Lastly, I am AGAINST any tax increases the Mayor is asking for. Our basic services are getting worse and stink... until the Mayor can figure out how to run city basics (streets, parks, police, etc) and not prioritize pet projects I am against all additional taxes. Let's get back to managing and funding the BASICS and core infrastructure. Regards Eric Povilus</p>
5/10/2024 16:45	Taylor Allan	New Entertainment District	<p>With the new entertainment district coming to SLC it's imperative that we keep UMOCA as a part of it. Art brings us together as a community and enriches the lives of everyone! UMOCA does so many positive things for the public and for children. They give artists a place to exhibit and work and spark important discussions. They support local artists and add so much value to the community. Please keep this all in mind while making decisions about this new district. Thank you! Taylor Allan</p>
5/10/2024 16:49	Sarah Blomgren	Phone call to City Council	<p>Caller states: they are so sad to see that people may want to tear down Abravanel Hall. There are not many symphonies left in the US but Utah has the best. I have been going to the symphony for 25 years. No one can rebuild how they use to with integrity. Everything uses cheaper materials and won't have the same historic feel. Downtown is losing its history to newer buildings that are not built well. Please do not let this happen, it isn't good at all.</p>
5/11/2024 8:14	Anonymous Constituent	I don't want this or a tax hike	<p>I find it unconscionable in an inflationary period headed towards stagflation that this is district, much less its accompanying tax hike, is being proposed at all. Many people live in the city who are struggling - beyond the incredible homeless problem! - and this project feels like an incredibly myopic dream of the out of touch - as in poverty literally doesn't touch them or concern them, so raising up sports teams on the back of the whole city, which again, still includes working class people like myself, at least until taxes like this shove me out! At least let the affluent who shop and eat and overspend in the initial proposed blocks for the tax pay for it, although by widening it to the entire city, I assume you don't want those who benefit and can afford it to pay for it alone! Shame on you, etc., but it's clear you don't care for my type as a citizen, except to bleed my small paycheck. Won't repeal the regressive food tax, but will add to the burden for sports!</p>
5/11/2024 8:31	L c Guertin	Capital City Revitalization Zone	<p>I am incredible enthusiastic about having an NHL team however, what is great about Salt Lake are the mountains. To be able to see the mountains for every citizen is a gift. Currently there are vacant buildings that can house businesses without taking away from the culture of the city and turning it into every other high rise city. Please KEEP the building height restrictions in place. Thank you.</p>
5/11/2024 8:34	Anonymous Constituent	Building heights should be maintained	<p>We want open spaces and the ability to see the sky even downtown. Both for historic districts like Japantown and for green spaces.</p>



Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/11/2024 8:42	Erin Svoboda-Scott	Save Abravanel Hall	<p>Please do everything you can to find a solution that includes Abravanel Hall, at least the interior hall, as it is, with the scheduled renovations. I don't know why, but building a concert hall with suburb acoustics seems to be a nearly impossible thing to do, and we have one of the acoustically best halls in the country. That, with the beauty of the hall and its rich history and tradition within the community give it a unique place in the culture of Salt Lake City.</p> <p>A new hall that even comes close to the quality of Abravanel would be astronomically expensive and it would undoubtedly have worse acoustics, given that the science is so hit and miss. The Utah Symphony's fate as a top-tier orchestra is at stake. As a nonprofit, any time the symphony spends during the gap years of renovation or rebuild will drastically affect the bottom line, which could have far-reaching affects for the organization. My very real fear is that what you decide could either propel the Utah Symphony forward or cause it to decline, slowly decreasing until it is no more than a community orchestra, as it was in the time before Maurice Abravanel and his namesake hall. Please protect Abravanel Hall and the Utah Symphony. I understand that the hall is in the direct path between the Delta Center and City Creek. Can the path be curved or diagonal to accommodate the hall? Can a slice of the building be taken off while keeping the interior? I think there are many creative options here that would be a win-win for all.</p>
5/11/2024 9:31	Jenise Jensen	Concerns about tax raise and downtown	<p>While I am not much of a sports fan (especially hockey), I am always excited about ways that SLC can find ways to build its energy and connect with the world. For this reason, I have been a proponent of another Olympics here. I have significant concerns, however, about proposals that will change the nature of our beautiful downtown for the sake of one industry and one already very rich business man. The placement of this arena and complex downtown does not make sense. The west side is much more open and vitally in need of some influx of such development. Think about Denver did this with their sports arenas. I also do not support the idea of having to pay for something that will not better SLC as it is currently proposed, but will certainly benefit Ryan Smith.</p>
5/11/2024 10:36	Raquel Cook	Ryan Smith's proposal	Abravanel Hall should be renovated and kept as an integral part of the proposed development.
5/11/2024 10:57	Andrew HUFFAKER	No tax increase for hockey	A tax increase to pay for a billionaire's arena is a bad idea in light of the many issues our city faces (affordable housing, homelessness, ballpark neighborhood, air quality, etc). An even worse idea is to let a billionaire, who has never lived in SLC to plan the future of our downtown.
5/11/2024 11:33	Mark Barone	I-80 and I-15 Speed Llimit 70 mph	There are so any vehicles entering and exiting along I-80 and I-15 near urban centers. I think 70 Miles Per Hour is too fast and unsafe ! Thanks for your help, Mark
5/11/2024 11:46	Elisha Condie	Proposed downtown sports complex	<p>I am asking that the City Council give a RESOUNDING NO to the request by Ryan Smith to build a sports complex where Abravanel Hall currently stands. Abravanel Hall is a landmark in this city, a beautiful building which serves Salt Lake citizens so well. I'm not even much of a symphony lover but have been to many many events at Abravanel with my family including film series and performances which we love. Utah has a long history of valuing the arts - while we are one of the youngest states in the country we have the oldest state funded arts council in the whole nation (turning 125 this year). Please, please do not throw away this beautiful space and years of history for a new sports complex. It can be built anywhere. It does not need to be in the spot where something important already is.</p>
5/11/2024 13:29	Anonymous Constituent	Abravanel Hall	Leave Abravanel Hall where it is! Don't let Big Money tear it down to make room for a sports complex. That can go lots of other places...
5/11/2024 17:11	Anonymous Constituent	Abravanel Hall	Please do not tear down Abravanel Hall!!! The last thing our downtown area needs is something that will add to traffic and congestion. The layout of downtown Salt Lake isn't meant to accommodate that much traffic.

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/11/2024 17:35	Wendy Blankenship	Save the Symphony and Abravanel Hall	Please vote to save the Utah Symphony's performance space and the building that is central to our arts community.
5/11/2024 19:28	Brandi Chase	Proposed SLC Downtown Sports Complex	I am opposed to a tax increase to fund this distasteful and wasteful project.
5/11/2024 20:43	Nicole Mihalopoulos	Abravanel Hall and SEG	Dear Council, I am writing in opposition to the plan to demolish Abravanel Hall to create space for an ice rink for SEG. Abravanel Hall is acoustically wonderful for enjoying performances by the Utah Symphony as well as other entertainers. The cost to build a comparable structure is far greater than identifying a different location for adding another professional sporting space. I am also opposed to a tax increase to support building a new ice space. If there will be a tax increase, it should support public education. Thank you for your consideration.
5/11/2024 23:04	Anonymous Constituent	Development Ryan Smith	Concern that this whole project says nothing about what gentrification means for the working class people how do you address the unaffordable housing issues and shortage which would surely be a result me and my spouse love downtown slc and the west side please don't make it even more unaffordable-please address these issues!!!
5/12/2024 0:04	Kay Honaker	Abravanel Hall is more important than a sports complex	We have had a world-class symphony orchestra for decades. The very thought of destroying its home so Utah can have even more sports (and who goes to hockey now? What makes you think a pro team will get more attendance?) is ridiculous. I also resent a raise in my taxes to pay for a sports complex I will never use. If they can't be self sufficient (and why can't the billionaire fund his own toys?) maybe they should go somewhere else.
5/12/2024 0:27	Charlotte Milker	Public Restrooms	While making changes find a way to provide public restrooms for people, including homeless people. Possibly build a structure that contains basic toilets and sinks, with a security person available who could watch for inappropriate use. People walking in the city would not have to find a store owner to allow them to use a restroom and homeless people would not be limited to bushes, trees and corners creating odors, sanitary issues, etc. Maintaining these toilets could be less expensive than the alternative if ignoring the need.
5/12/2024 0:35	Casey V Carrigan	The secret sauce <b>**Attachment 2</b>	One image defines our understanding of this project. The dramatized delta center is incredibly welcoming, and I'll tell you why: there is not a single car in the image. If you live in SLC you can really only comprehend this if you've travelled internationally, because currently this type of environment can be found nowhere in the state! My questions: If SLC can't even commit to closing its own main street to cars, how are we, the citizen funders of this endeavor, to believe that this image is anything but a lie? What's the plan to make it real? A slick marketing group decided that SLC residents want a huge car free pedestrian plaza in the center of downtown. What assurances do we have that the result will resemble the image? Because I think they're trying to sell us Florence, Italy while delivering mall-of-america nonsense.
5/12/2024 7:20	Karen Ellis	Please don't subsidize a stadium.	I am opposed to the proposed tax increase to pay for a stadium. I do not think Salt Lake City residents (including myself) should be forced to pay for stadium which benefits only its owner. If the sports team does not want to profit share with residents- then residents should not be forced to pay its bills. It is unfair to place the burden of paying for a billionaires new team on the residents - many of whom are already financially struggling and for whom additional taxes are a material burden.



Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/12/2024 13:33	Louise Schenk	Against Sport Entertainment District	I have heard this idea before, if only we had more walkable areas in our city! Imagine what it could be! It's the story that was told around the development of the Gateway. It's the story behind City Creek Mall. Main Street revitalisation. Gateway is a ghost town. City Creek is a luxury playground. Ryan Smith's idea is one person's idea that will remake our lives. My favorite cities in the world, and the best urban streets inside of them are owned by lots of different people, and reflect the diverse ideas, lives and capabilities of those people. When we allow wealthy individuals and developers to raze chunks of the city and redesign it in their own image, we lose the diverse, interesting bubbling that makes cities fun places to live. Salt Lake's best places, 9th South, Main Street, are cozy streets where everyone can bring and contribute their idea of a good life. Too much of any single persons idea... and we can't find ourselves there.
5/12/2024 18:37	Paul Sampson	Sports Entertainment District	Dear Sir or Ma'am, Please don't raise taxes one penny to provide welfare to Ryan Smith and the Smith Entertainment Group. If you do, my family and I will never spend another penny in that district again. History from all over the country has shown that these deals turn out to be great for the developers and sports team owners and terrible for the taxpayers and small businesses that lose customers to the developers who received the corporate welfare. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Paul Sampson
5/13/2024 6:43	Becca Tollison	Overfunding of police	The current budget proposal shows that around \$119 million is planned to go to policing. This is excessive and more than double ANY other section on the proposal. I believe that policing should receive no more than \$80 million, and the other \$39 million should be reallocated to help improve our community in a more tangible way, like: -paying off school lunch debt, and giving more access to school lunch for all students -improving our schools and giving our educators more appropriate wages -creating more resource centers for displaced/homeless/lgtbq youth -resources to rehabilitate the growing homeless population Again, I do not agree with the overfunding of police and want those monies to be reallocated to serve the population in a better way rather than line the pockets of a group that already receives too much and does not do enough to actually protect and serve the people.
5/13/2024 7:01	Darrell WILLIAMS	Taxes	Why would you put more of a burden on tax payers. With Biden screwing up the hole Country. Stop the madness SLC.
5/13/2024 9:37	Ethan Ensign	Hockey stadium	Why on earth are the city council considering a sales tax increase and stadium giveaway project for a billionaire developer? When I as a citizen requested the opportunity to rent space in the new (at that time) downtown city library I was told that market rates applied and that I would have to provide special additional time and energy just to be considered for the rental of 400 sq ft. Now I hear that a billionaire developer wants to build a stadium and use our taxpayer money to pay for it. BULLSHIT. No special payoffs or financial arrangements for developers unless they are providing low income housing or something that the city needs (rather than something that none of us need buy that the wealthy want). I can't believe that we as a city are evening considering this. We should at the very least have a city wide vote on the subject. I know that the mayor and my council member are very close to losing my vote and many other votes from those that I know.

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/13/2024 10:13	Anonymous Constituent	Against Tax Increase for NHL/MLB/Downtown Sports Zones	It is an absolute abomination for the dreams of some young rich man to be paid for by regular citizens of this city and state. If Mr Smith would like an updated zone for his sporting dreams-and he can afford it (which he can) then he should foot the bill. A vote to increase sales tax merely for his benefit and for his dreams to come to fruition instead of an increase of sales tax being used to address our chronic homeless and unaffordable housing issues is a misuse of public funds. I stand firmly against any sales tax increase for any NHL/Sporting development downtown. Any threat to Abravanel Hall should not be tolerated by billionaire bullies.
5/13/2024 11:06	Ari Tepper	Levying a public tax to pay for private development is not the solution	When Utah was in the running for NHL and MLB teams to potentially go into the "Power District" at the Rocky Mountain Power site, it was said that Utah would not levy any taxes against its citizens to pay for the private development that belonged to billionaire sports team owners. Why has that tune changed now that a SLC NHL team is happening? Just because it's going to be downtown? It's been shown time and time again that taxes for billion dollar stadiums do not work, no matter where they are they are never in the taxpayers interest. The burden continues to be shared by the taxpayer (and potential future tax increases for maintenance costs) while the profits go straight to the people that need it least. I am strongly opposed to any tax increase towards this development.
5/13/2024 11:43	Alex Churchward	Abravanel Hall	Hi Chris, I am concerned about a proposal by the Smith Entertainment Group to potentially tear down Abravanel Hall for a sports and entertainment district. Although I welcome development and improvement to our city, it should not come at the expense of such gems. This building could never truly be replaced. Additionally, the Gateway is literally right across the street from the Delta Center and has plenty of empty space available for bars, restaurants, and entertainment options if that is what Mr. Smith is seeking. Thank you, Alex Churchward
5/13/2024 11:50	Alec Wodowski	Tax Increase	Good morning! First, let me state that I am a huge hockey fan and absolutely love that we're getting an NHL team here in SLC. This was not some large cultural shift that the people of Utah voted nor asked for from the NHL. This is in the sole interest of the Smith Entertainment Group, and their interest alone. Please do not raise our taxes to fund Mr. Smiths foray into professional hockey. If anything has shown, the HUGE support for this team already (in the off season might I add) will pay countless dividends to the Smith Entertainment Group. They absolutely should not be able to access a single cent of taxpayer funds. Please allocate that money to improving the infrastructure to allow this new stadium to function downtown. Alec Wodowski
5/13/2024 12:12	Alan Mueller	Sales tax increase	I'll keep it short: NO on the sales tax increase for SEG downtown plan. Alan Mueller SLC
5/13/2024 12:22	Catherine Free-Weeks	Say no to tax increase for "Mayor" Ryan Smith	Dear Council members: Add my name to the growing list of disgusted citizens who don't want to give our tax dollars to a billionaire and his hockey stadium "improvement" project. We didn't elect Ryan Smith. We elected YOU to ensure that grifters like him don't use their private agendas to roll over what's important to our city's legacy. The downtown core should not be turned over to Smith so he can put in a garish, Vegas style boulevard with helicopter pads and flashing electronic billboards. And to think that Abravanel Hall might be torn down for this disgusting money grab makes my blood boil. I have never been more angry at our elected city officials. Anyone on the Council who votes in favor of turning over our tax dollars to Smith deserves to be voted out of office. Please do the right thing and tell Smith "No thanks!" He can do whatever he wants to the Delta Center, but he should keep his hands off our downtown and its treasured landmarks. Sincerely,
5/13/2024 12:41	Cody Brown	NO TAX MONEY FOR BILLIONAIRES	Make them find their own business ventures. Thank you.

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/13/2024 12:43	Dave Alderman	Comment on Budget Amendment #5	As President of the Friends of the Salt Lake City Cemetery, I am writing in support of the appropriations regarding the Cemetery in Budget Amendment #5. However, I have one minor request. This item should be labeled as Salt Lake City Cemetery, not the Avenues Cemetery. The Cemetery is located in the Avenues, but it is a City-wide and even State-wide treasure. Thanks Dave Alderman
5/13/2024 12:47	Fee Busby	Downtown Development	It seems easy to get excited about Ryan Smith's plans for downtown SLC development. People have gotten excited about many of Elon Musk's plans only to be disappointed when he fails to follow through. I don't know Ryan Smith but my father told me long ago to question things that seem to be too good to be true. I think my father would question the development plan. I encourage the city council to do so as well. Fee Busby, Logan
5/13/2024 12:57	Gregory Glenn	Protect Abravanel Hall <b>** Attachment 3 - 5 pages</b>	I would urge the Council to take a both - and approach and preserve our incredible Symphony Hall while supporting the developments that will be also good for civic life. Abravanel Hall is highly regarded throughout the nation as a symphonic performance space, and it is recognized as an architectural icon for our city. Please protect this important edifice! I have attached an article from The Atlantic last week which challenges the practice of publicly funded sports arenas that house entities owned by wealthy private investors. I urge you to read it. (Please see the attached)
5/13/2024 13:06	James Viney	city taxes and sports give aways	Dear Council members There has never been a publicly funded sports facility in the USA that has returned a positive financial return to the public that funded it. They are hugely popular with millionaires and billionaires who get to use public money to push their projects that make them money, but the public doesn't get a return on its money. I urge you to oppose using public money to support sports facilities. If you do so there has to be a mechanism for the public to get a guaranteed return on its investment. Repeatedly sports teams owners have demanded public monies for areas etc and then moved on to a different city when they get another offer. James Viney wslc resident
5/13/2024 13:14	Janel VanDenBerghe	Building heights	I am in favor of maintaining limits on building heights in downtown SLC
5/13/2024 13:24	Janet Roberts	SEG Proposal	Dear SLC Council, I am writing in response to a recent article in the SL Tribune regarding Smith Entertainment Group's downtown proposal in which you have asked for comments. I'm concerned about a half a percent rise in sales tax to fund a billion dollar organization's personal dream. And, would this rise in sales tax apply to Salt Lake City only or to the rest of the state? It would be a shame to sacrifice some of the stalwart structures in downtown Salt Lake City that have been cultural icons such as a Abravanel Hall, the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Salt Palace Convention Center in favor of stadiums and helipads. The arts are still necessary despite our insatiable need for expensive entertainments. Thank you for listening.
5/13/2024 13:45	Ryan Moran	Sales tax increase for SEG stadium	Dear Salt Lake City Council, My name is Ryan Moran and I am a resident in Salt Lake City. My representative is Dan Duggan and I live in Bonneville Hills. I am writing to express my vehement disagreement in the sales tax for the stadium. As Andy Larsen has reported in the Tribune, all major studies suggest that sports stadiums do not benefit local inhabitants. If SEG wants a stadium downtown, they should pay for it. If not, residents of Salt Lake City definitely should not. Moreover, raising this money via a sales tax disproportionately puts the burden of funding the stadium onto the poorest residents of the city. At a point where many residents struggle with affordable housing and the cost of food, funding this through a sales tax is a horrible idea. Moreover, I am want to strongly note my dissatisfaction with attempts to raise height limits on buildings. Doing so will further decimate historic Japantown. Sincerely, Ryan Moran

# Taxpayers Are About to Subsidize a Lot More Sports Stadiums

You would think that three decades' worth of evidence would put an end to giving taxpayer money to wealthy sports owners. Unfortunately, you would be wrong.

By [Dan Moore](#)

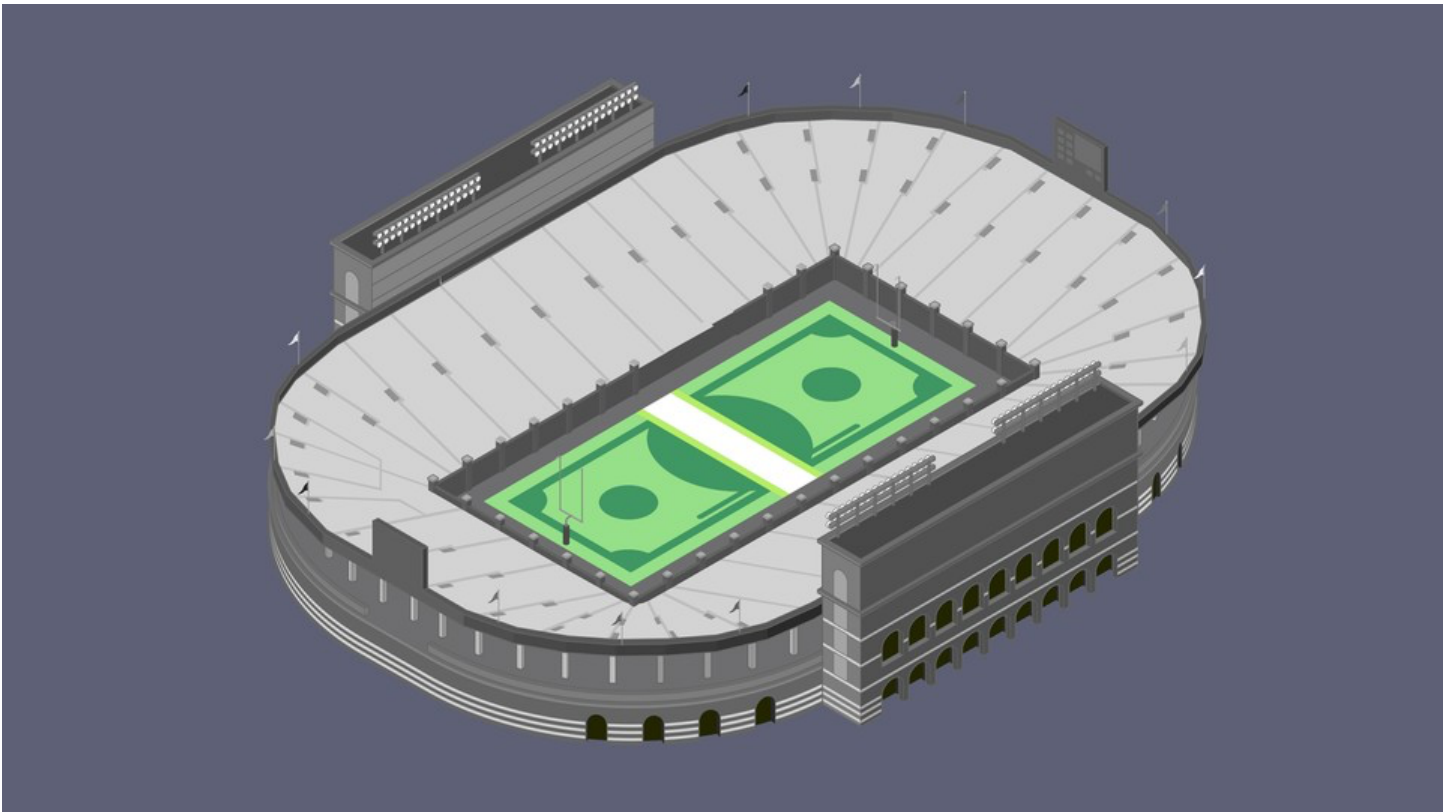


Illustration by The Atlantic. Source: Getty.

MAY 8, 2024, 7:30 AM ET

*Updated at 10:46 a.m. ET on May 8, 2024*

Open a map of the United States. Select a big city at random. Chances are, it has recently approved or is on the verge of approving a lavish, taxpayer-funded stadium project for one or more of its local sports teams. This is true in Las Vegas, where the team currently known as the Oakland Athletics will soon be playing in a new ballpark up the street from the home of the NFL's Raiders, also formerly of Oakland. Combined, the two stadiums will end up receiving more than \$1.1 billion

in public funding, not counting tax breaks. Something similar is happening in Chicago, where Jerry Reinsdorf, owner of the White Sox, wants roughly \$1 billion in public funding for a new stadium in the South Loop, while the Halas-McCaskey family, which owns the Bears, is requesting \$2.4 billion for a new football stadium on the lakefront. Likewise in Cleveland, which has one of the nation's highest childhood poverty rates, as well as in Phoenix, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. In Buffalo, the Bills recently received \$850 million for new digs, and in Nashville, politicians approved a record \$1.26 billion subsidy for the Titans.

Economic research is unequivocal: These subsidies are a boondoggle for taxpayers, who have spent nearly \$30 billion on stadiums over the past 34 years, not counting property-tax exemptions or federal revenues lost to tax-exempt municipal bonds. Stadiums do not come close to generating enough economic activity to pay back the public investment involved in building them—especially when they're coupled with lease agreements that funnel revenue back to owners or allow teams to play in the stadiums rent-free. Even as an investment in your city's stores of community spirit, stadium subsidies at this price are hard to justify. As the economist J. C. Bradbury told the Associated Press, "When you ask economists if we should fund sports stadiums, they can't say 'no' fast enough."

Read: Sports stadiums are a bad deal for cities

You would think that three decades' worth of evidence would be enough to put an end to the practice of subsidizing sports stadiums. Unfortunately, you would be wrong. America finds itself on the brink of the biggest, most expensive publicly-funded-stadium boom ever, and the results will not be any better this time around.

Until the 1980s, super-rich sports franchise owners generally did not seek or receive extravagant public subsidies. Three events changed that. First, in 1982, Al Davis, the Raiders' owner, left Oakland for Los Angeles because officials refused to fund renovations to the Oakland Coliseum, which the city had built in the '60s. (They would later cave on this; the Raiders returned to Oakland in 1995, lured by public funds.) Second, in 1984, Robert Irsay, the owner of the Baltimore Colts, moved the team to Indiana after being offered a sweetheart deal at the publicly funded Hoosier Dome. Finally, a few years later, Maryland approved hundreds of millions of dollars in public funding—along with a historically lopsided lease agreement—for a new stadium for the Orioles, who were now Baltimore's only



remaining team. (The Ravens wouldn't exist until 1996.) "If you want to save the Orioles," Maryland House Speaker R. Clayton Mitchell said at the time, "you have to give them this kind of lease."

Camden Yards turned out to be beautiful—a downtown shrine of hand-laid brick and cast-iron gates that evoked the odd-angled "Golden Age" of American ballpark design. Major League Baseball, sportswriters, and obliging local politicians were also quick to credit Camden Yards with spurring a revival of Baltimore's downtown—and, with it, of inspired downtowns elsewhere. "No longer would communities across America build stadiums devoid of character," Major League Baseball mythologized in a press release celebrating the park's 30th anniversary, "but instead would build them to flow seamlessly in existing and historic neighborhoods, playing key roles in the revitalization of urban America." This turned out to be a trap; now politicians could convince themselves that capitulating to team owners was sound public policy. Never mind that, in Baltimore's case, Camden ultimately didn't do all that much reviving. (The neighborhoods surrounding Camden Yards actually shed employers in the decades after the park opened, while unemployment and crime rose, according to Bloomberg.) Owners have made the idea central to the way they sell stadium projects ever since.

In the early '90s, for example, boosters pitched Cleveland's Jacobs Field in a newspaper ad that promised "\$33.7 million in public revenues every year" along with "28,000 good-paying jobs for the jobless" and "\$15 million a year for schools for our children." Now, here's how Dave Kaval, president of the Oakland A's, described the benefits of the \$855 million subsidy that the A's were trying to extract from Oakland, in 2021, before the team decided to relocate to Las Vegas: "Seven billion dollars in economic impact. 6,000 permanent and mostly union jobs. 3,000 construction jobs. We're building more than a ballpark here."

Read: Stadiums have gotten downright dystopian

Stadiums don't actually do these things. The jobs they create are seasonal and low-wage. They tend not to increase commercial property values or encourage much in the way of economic activity, besides a bit of increased spending in bars and restaurants surrounding the venue—which is mostly being substituted for dollars that were previously being spent elsewhere. Tax revenues attributable to stadiums fall well short of recouping the public's investment. Economically speaking, stadium

subsidies mostly just transfer wealth from taxpayers to the owners of sports franchises.

This became clear to economists early into the previous subsidy boom. For a time, cities and states appeared to have wised up. Taxpayers covered 68 percent of the costs of major sports venues built or renovated between 1992 and 2008, but only 31 percent of the costs from 2009 to 2020, according to research that Victor Matheson, an economist at the College of Holy Cross, shared with *The Athletic*. Unfortunately, this turned out to be just a lull. Team owners tend to demand stadium upgrades at the end of their leases, which typically last 30 years. Camden Yards, which spurred the last subsidy boom, was built 32 years ago. We are merely reentering stadium-subsidy season.

This time, the costs promise to be even higher, the consequences even more depressing. As the expense of stadium construction has gone up, so has the size of the subsidies owners ask for—along with the shamelessness and determination with which they seek them out. That’s one reason so many teams have threatened to relocate in just the past few months. The American major leagues are all more profitable than they’ve ever been—Major League Baseball alone made a record \$11.6 billion in 2023, the NFL \$19 billion—while individual teams are more valuable, thanks in part to subsidies. As Matheson told me in 2022, “Any time a team gets a new stadium, you immediately see its valuation rise.”

The situation presents a classic collective-action problem. American cities would all be better off if stadium subsidies disappeared. But individual political leaders seem to be afraid to buck the trend unilaterally, lest they be blamed for the departure of a beloved franchise.

The obvious solution is federal legislation. A good start would be to reverse the existing, obscure statutory provision that helped make the stadium-subsidy cycle possible. Congress made interest on municipal bonds tax-exempt in 1913 in order to encourage public infrastructure spending. The intention was not to finance private construction, and in the 1986 Tax Reform Act, Congress tried to cut off that form of misappropriation. What the law should have done was simply revoke access to tax-exempt bonds for use on private projects, such as stadiums. Instead, it left a loophole. It enabled state and local governments to issue tax-exempt bonds for private projects as long as they finance at least 90 percent of the cost of the project

themselves and pay no more than 10 percent of the debt service using revenues generated by the project. Essentially, a city could access the bonds only if it was willing to drain its own funds for the benefit of sports-franchise owners. The assumption was that no city would be stupid enough to accept such a bad bargain—but that assumption turned out to be deeply mistaken. Lawmakers have introduced bills seeking to correct the oversight several times over the years, but none has become law.

In the meantime, change is up to sports fans. As beloved as sports are in America, socializing stadium construction remains unpopular. Indeed, when stadium subsidies are put to voters, many of them fail, as a referendum on a sales-tax extension to pay for new stadiums for the Chiefs and Royals recently did in Kansas City. Some groups, such as the Coalition to Stop the Arena at Potomac Yard, which organized against a proposed \$1.5 billion subsidy for Ted Leonsis, the owner of the Washington Wizards and Washington Capitals, have recently even managed to stop subsidized projects before that point. “Teams need a place to play, and if local governments told them to pay a fair rent or go pound sand, owners would have little choice but to go along,” Neil deMause, a co-author of *Field of Schemes: How the Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money Into Private Profit*, told me.

Telling owners to pound sand, however, would require cities, and fans, to call a billionaire’s bluff. That is no small thing. Teams don’t usually relocate, but when they do, it’s painful; as an Oakland sports fan, I know this from experience. I empathize with the impulse to tell politicians to do whatever it takes to keep a team. Especially when I think of all the A’s games I won’t be able to take my son to.

But “whatever it takes” is an untenable stance, especially when the bill from last time has not yet fully been paid, and the likelihood of a return on the investment is so demonstrably dubious. In Alameda County, where I live, taxpayers are still paying off the debt issued to renovate the Oakland Coliseum in 1995. When the tab is finally settled, the subsidy will have cost us \$350 million, paid for mostly out of the general fund. In that time, Oakland has contended with several historic budget shortfalls and struggled to address its competing crises, including homelessness and rising crime. Giving \$855 million to John Fisher, the A’s owner, would not have solved these problems. The evidence suggests, in fact, that it would have only made things worse. One wonders how much more evidence will have accumulated 30 years from now, when the next subsidy boom threatens to begin.

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/13/2024 13:47	W David Smith	SEG Proposals	<p>JUST SAY NO . . . Qualtrics? Quantricks? Our Indigenous people have a wonderful tradition of stories in which a coyote appears as a character. He's a trickster, you see? Causes lots of trouble, mostly, just trying to make a living, a little like you and me, only without so much work. Likes to play games with what you know and what you don't. Arizona had an ice hockey team named "Coyotes." Still have the name. "We" got the franchise with the label peeled off. "We" actually didn't. Something called the Smith Entertainment Group did. Darned if they didn't bring that famous coyote behavior along with them, though! Magnified! Into the greatest land and power grab Utah has ever seen! "We'll revitalize your city! Connect Eastside and Westside, make you famous hockey winners, brighten your upcoming Olympics!" "All you have to do is give us a 99-year lease on the block of land under that broken down old symphony hall—no sports in that place! Oh, no, we'll keep it or—something! Same with those two churches and culture hall the Japanese use—can't see them anyway. We'll also want the city height restrictions lifted so we can put up some skyscrapers!" The coyotes cut a deal with our Utah Senate, always happy to stick it to our capital city. The legislators created SB 272, never mind "unintended consequences." Coyotes had made some gesture toward leaving and taking those sports teams too, however unlikely that is, given simple economics. "Oh! You don't own that block between the symphony block and the Delta Center? Maybe you can condemn the owners for us. Three blocks? We'll just tuck that into this \$3 billion we'll pledge to the project. No need for you to see the money. Just show us the \$900 million in increased taxes. We'll do good," they said, but not for whom. In fact, the overbuilding proposed will hurt both City Creek and the Gateway Center, both now having empty stores despite the strength of Utah's current economy. Moreover, and I'm serious, who wants a skyscraper and that dysfunctional, ugly set of proposed structures, so rendered, anywhere near to the Temple Square so many are looking forward to seeing completed? Well, the coyotes apparently do. What to do about all this? First of all, we urge a speedy repentance. Give up on the nonsense tax increase Salt Lake County voters are likely to reject, anyway, under the conditions you set forth. And the city and county leadership would be foolish to approve it without a vote. Utah has one grand tradition we encourage you adopt. Utah is tops in the country in philanthropy per person. Make a generous gift so that Abravanel Hall can update its infrastructure. Do it without tricks. It will only take a portion of the funds you pay a single player you'll be trading—and is tax deductible. The building represents the finest of symphony halls of its period with outstanding acoustics for a musical experience few people elsewhere can have. The thousands of people who created it financially and through gifted labor are the best of souls and don't deserve being so disrespected as the coyotes have done with their self-serving proposal. The Utah Symphony, as always, will be generous in return with recognition of your gift, and no longer will you be seen as land- and power-grabbing coyotes. Cartoonists a few decades ago animated a like coyote and a roadrunner that the coyote always wants to catch and eat, or at least get rid of. He tried that for years! Roadrunner won.</p>
5/13/2024 13:54	Jim Ngo	Oppose Sales Tax Increase	<p>I am writing to oppose the sales tax increase and giving entire city blocks to Ryan Smith for 99 years. Salt Lake City is already the highest taxed municipality in the state, and Utah has the 2nd highest tax burden in the west. I oppose socialized risks for private profits for a billionaire that doesn't even live in Salt Lake. Sincerely,</p>
5/13/2024 14:35	Marti s. Lythgoe	Abravanel Hall	<p>Please do not include tearing down Abravanel Hall in your new downtown district plans! For me, and I'm sure many others, it represents Salt Lake City as much as the LDS Temple. I have season tickets to the Utah Symphony and have attended many other events there. My husband sang in the Symphony Choir. Update as needed, but don't tear it down!</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/13/2024 14:38	Michael King	Questions on how the increased sales tax proposal for downtown development helps the average citizen	<p>Hello, I have been reading up on the articles about proposals for the new downtown district. Can you help me understand how increasing taxes on all of us, with many currently struggling, to help a billionaire control three downtown blocks and increase his wealth makes sense? You can already see that most Utahns can't afford to live in that area. The usual excuse of job creations and property values are listed Most people can't live in that area to begin with. I feel also many of the smaller local businesses will be continued to push out too. We are seeing this more and more where local businesses have to close or move away and chains start filling the spots. So - this increases property value for the billionaire and also the other wealthy corporations. How much of this will actually benefit all of us who are subjected to the tax increase? Why do we keep falling for large corporations same tactics on taxing the struggling to increase their wealth with "job retention" and other excuses. We are seeing most of the time that is not the case. Corporations care about their own bottom line. Anything altruistic they are trying to push on how it benefits us all is just corporate-speak. I feel our government is thinking the same way - catering to the wealthy and continuing to pass laws and regulations to hit the less powerful. Note: I don't care about things such as building heights, but I am concerned about losing Japantown, losing small businesses that might have been here for years, losing the entrepreneurial spirit of restaurant owners trying to share their cuisines from around the world, the local bookshops and other small stores. We are doing this to fund a man who has a net worth higher than he may ever be able to spend in his life. Can you please provide any data on how this will actually benefit Salt Lake citizens, or Utahns as a whole? Please think about us bottom 80% while making decisions. Thank you for your time, Mike</p>
5/13/2024 14:41	Richard Melby	FY25 Public Utilities proposed rate increases	<p>Good morning - I am unable to participate in the public hearings scheduled for May 21 regarding the proposed rate increases for next year, so I'm emailing my feedback. First, thank you for soliciting public comment and providing multiple avenues to provide feedback. Second, I'm very satisfied with the services and associated rates for the services delivered by SLC Public Utilities. Third, my feedback. Rate increases are understandable and inevitable, but I suggest more emphasis be placed to communicate what's being done to drive efficiencies and cost equity of the services provided by SLC Public Utilities. Please consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asking the community to place recycling bins out for collection only when the bins are full. Doing so will make your driver's work more efficient and lower cost. I suspect many of us with small households using 40 gallon garbage bins can go two or more weeks before the much larger recycling bins need to be collected.</li> <li>• The Call 2 Haul program provides great value, so why not charge for it versus asking your entire customer base to underwrite the service? Charging a reasonable fee for those that use the service seems much more equitable, especially to those of us that do not use the service.</li> </ul> <p>With respect, Richard Melby</p>
5/13/2024 14:46	Ron Johnson	Downtown entertainment district	<p>Good Day Council, I live very near the arena and future downtown entertainment district and i see no negatives as long as thoughtful communication and action between the Japanese community and the symphony/arts community are involved and represented. If done right, the Japan town area could really blossom (pun intended) with culture, cherry tree-lined 1st south, and Japanese shops/restaurants in that same vicinity. The two existing churches on 1st south could be integrated very well if thoughtfully executed. Abravanel Hall, although a treasure to our community, needs some love. I see either a new world class hall built in the district, or thoughtful execution to integrate the current hall into the plans for this amazing opportunity to link our community and further expand our already world-class city. Let's get this done! Thank you Ron Johnson</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/13/2024 14:48	Ross Woolf	Downtown sports district	It seems to me the simplest answer is to rework the Gateway that sits next to the delta center. It has struggled for years. Make it so there is easy and flowing access between it and the dela center. It already has trax right in the middle of it all. Leave Abravanel hall alone.
5/13/2024 16:34	Steven g. Schultz	Abravanel Hall PLans	Dear Council: I live in San Francisco and am a subscriber to our symphony. I have been to SLC many times and on these trips I have always included a performance by your symphony. As a musician and frequenter of many concert halls including those in Europe, I was alarmed at reading a possible fate for Abravanel Hall. Although we have a beautiful hall in San Francisco, your hall has superior acoustics. It was built on the European model of a rectangular concert space. This is why so many European halls have such great sound. PLease exhibit extreme caution for any plans to alter such a space. Once done, there is no going back and future generations will regard the decision with much regret. Sincerely, Steven G. Schultz
5/13/2024 16:36	Cody Brown	NO TAX MONEY FOR BILLIONAIRES	Make them find their own business ventures. Thank you.
5/13/2024 16:41	Anonymous Constituent	Voicemail to City Council	Hello, This is Kay and Kevin and We lived in the Cottonwood Height. And we've been to the Symphony hall for 50 years. It is the beautiful hall and I am a big Basketball Fan and Hockey Fan, But You can not Scarified the beautiful hall for it. I would like you to reconsider on the relocate the hall. Thank you!
5/13/2024 17:21	Sterling Madsen	The MESS that YOUR "Livable Streets traffic CALMING program" has made of MY/OUR neighborhood and surrounding streets !!!	I sent you my first message about the rediculous PROBLEM that YOUR prolific barriers have created in our streets at least a week ago but you have chosen not to respond. I (and my meighbors ) want an answer as to WHEN you will be starting the REMOVAL of this MESS that you've made with OUR TAX DOLLARS ! And if your answer is anything remotely close to , "We will do whatever we want to YOUR streets" then YOU had better be looking for a different job ! Because WE, the people that pay yoour salary are not going to take this CRAP any more.
5/13/2024 20:34	Jimmy Xiao	Required Rent Fees	Required rent fees (some call it "media fees" or "trash valet (no opt-out option)", "amenity fees" etc) are going insane in SLC. Every apartment complex has them, and it is hard to compare apartment options when you have to get a decent way down the process for each apartment to find out what the mandatory fees are for each complex. ~\$300 in mandatory fees on top of rent is not uncommon at all. I'd appreciate if legislation would ban this practice and force landlords to wrap all the required fees into the upfront rent sticker price. That way, it would encourage more competition, perhaps bringing prices down and overall make the city a lot more tenant-friendly.
5/14/2024 6:01	Chris DAmico	Smith Entertainment Group Downtown Proposal Tax Increase	Hello! I'm writing today to oppose the proposed tax increase the City Council is considering to fund the Smith Entertainment Group's downtown sports complex proposal. Time and time again, subsidies for sports teams have not show to be profitable to the citizens who pay for them. Here's a quote from a St. Louis Federal Reserve article on the subject. <a href="https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017-05-01/the-economics-of-subsidizing-sports-stadiums/">https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017-05-01/the-economics-of-subsidizing-sports-stadiums/</a> "In a 2017 poll, 83 percent of the economists surveyed agreed that "Providing state and local subsidies to build stadiums for professional sports teams is likely to cost the relevant taxpayers more than any local economic benefits that are generated." In their book, Sports, Jobs, and Taxes, Roger Noll and Andrew Zimbalist present a comprehensive review of stadium investments. In all cases, they find a new sports facility to have extremely small (or negative) effects on overall economic activity and employment. Furthermore, they were unable to find any facilities that had a reasonable return on investment." If we're going to increase taxes to raise \$900 million, we should be doing so to benefit the entire community with social programs. We should not be funding professional sports. Thanks for your consideration! Chris D'Amico

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/14/2024 7:50	Lori Wagner	Bathrooms and low cost housing	<p>Dear Mayor and Council members: I watched the last council meeting with dismay, as it seemed the topic of homelessness was dismissed without any thought. The mayor mentioned she has a homebuyers program but how will this program, which has a 450k cap, help the residents of Salt Lake, where no houses are for sale for that price? A better strategy would be to require the many apartment buildings popping up around the city to make a small percentage, perhaps 1 unit-1% of units, very low cost housing, i.e. 25% of income. I strongly support the Nomad Alliance in their quest for bathrooms for the homeless. The idea of the thousands of homeless defecating near the Jordan River and in alleys is clearly a public health risk, not to mention just plain gross. Not addressing this issue and building bathrooms certainly adds to the air of an ivory tower mentality of politicians. Even if one does not care about the homeless, please care about public health! Sincerely, Dr. Lori A Wagner</p>
5/14/2024 10:31	Gordon Nelson	NHL/MLB Taxes	<p>Hi Victoria, this is Gordon Nelson. I live in rose park and I am a supporter of you, my reason for calling is with all this Utah jazz and hockey development going on in the city, I really don't feel comfortable paying taxes, uh salt lake city's taxes going up to support that kind of thing, I used to think they build that stuff outside of salt lake so I'd appreciate hearing from you, i just.. I don't know, we can't continue to observe all the problems from Utah such as the prison and the taxes, so thank you. Bye."</p>
5/14/2024 11:26	John Costa	Abravanel Hall	<p>I am a composer and faculty member at the University of Utah, and I am writing on behalf of saving Abravanel Hall – one of our most cherished artistic institutions. As a composer, I have had the privilege of hearing two of my orchestral works in that wonderful space. The experience was sublime, and the acoustics were among the best that I have ever encountered. And as one whose experienced many different concert halls throughout the U.S., I can attest that Abravanel Hall's acoustics, space, and sheer elegance are among the best – this is a rarity. It is more than just a concert hall; it is a living symbol of Salt Lake City's tradition of excellence and a center for our devoted artistic community that spans generations. Please do not allow this gem to go the wrecking ball. Renovate it if you must, but please allow this living symbol – so vital to our community - to remain in place. Thank You. - John Costa</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/14/2024 14:03	Victoria Walker	Feedback on plan to make Main Street a mall	<p>I'd like to give you feedback on closing main street. I've heard it is a done plan. I've also heard it is in planning. If in the planning stage, I would like to go on record that it is a terrible idea. As Chris Wharton knows, my husband and I owned a home in Memory Grove from 1987 to 2023. Recently the area became overrun with homeless and the City's position, at least according to the police, was nothing could be done with the hillside encampments and we finally chose to leave the area and have moved to Dan Dugan's district. Nevertheless, I continue to love the city, work in the city and represent clients in the City. Because I have an interest in the commercial real estate of the City, I am particularly concerned with the plan to close Main Street. Also, because I am older, I personally experienced the impact of the closure of Main Street from South Temple to North Temple when Ms Corridini sold the parcel to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The traffic impact was large and the City has never truly recovered from the congestion caused by its closure. Accidents increased at the corner of North Temple and State and the corner of South Temple and State. And it became ever more difficult to get into the City from the North. Those commuting from the North to the University of Utah now line up State Street, past the capital, along Victory Road. As a commercial real estate person and you as a council, want people back to the office buildings so we have a vibrant downtown. Workers live in the suburbs for a couple of reasons and (all of which you know) 1) single family homes are more prevalent and less expensive ; 2) there is little to no homeless; 3) there is less crime; and 4) they are surrounded by like-minded religious fellowship. Businesses are looking for ways to bring those workers back into the downtown corridor, and this will only create another obstacle. Again, because I am older, I've lived through the "downtown beautification" (actually 3) that killed downtown's retail businesses. The first one was in the 1970s when the City removed angled street parking, then there was the street beautification (planters and new sidewalks) in the 1980s and lastly the TRAX install of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Only the TRAX install was successful, but businesses did not return to Main Street; you only need to look [at] and smell [urine] Main Street from 200 South to 300 South. As UTA has pointed out, by slowing the TRAX trains down, their schedules will be greatly impacted. Once again an impediment to people using the systems. The ability for those to effectively move about the city is what is crucial to bringing people into and out of the City and reduces air pollution. By minimizing the number of traffic lanes such as what you have done on South Temple, 200 South and 300 South, only pushes that traffic onto the City's major 700 East and Foothill feeders on the East and adds to congestion. Please use history for your lesson plan and do not do this just because this mayor wants to make a mark. Sincerely,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vickey Walker</p>
5/14/2024 14:05	Alan Walker	Feedback on plan to make Main Street a mall	<p>I would like to echo what Vickey has said and amplify that restricting traffic lanes causes increased hazards in other places. As pedestrians, we crossed North Temple and State frequently as commuting drivers were irritated from the congestion which put bikers and pedestrians at greater risk. Be honest with the simulations and do not force a favorable solution or ignore common sense for political reasons and DO NOT use California or Colorado as models of success. Please do not exacerbate that situation by making more of downtown less accessible. Thank you,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Alan Walker</p>



Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/14/2024 15:25	Rusty McKinney 1/2	Save Abravanel Hall	<p>Dear Mayor Mendenhal and SLC Council Members, When I first heard that there was a plan to destroy Abravanel Hall, I was sure that there was some mistake. That someone misunderstood. Or that I had misread the post on social media from a former Utah Symphony colleague. But no, more of the same posts started appearing. I hadn't misheard or misread. There does indeed seem to be a plan to destroy one of the world's great concert halls so that a rich man can get richer and seem more important. Let me introduce myself a bit. I was a full-time member of the Utah Symphony Orchestra (bass trombone) for 22 years from 1989-2011. I won a national audition that had nearly 100 applicants to be the bass trombonist of the Utah Symphony. During that time I taught music as an adjunct at the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Snow College, and Westminster College. Depending on which of these we are talking about I gave private applied low brass instruction to both music majors and minors and I directed large ensembles. I was also the Music Director at the historic First Presbyterian Church of SLC for eight years. I have also played for varying lengths of time as a guest musician with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony of Washington, D.C., the Kennedy Center Orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra to name the major orchestras. And I have played in many notable regional orchestras as well. I continue to work in music here in my home state of North Carolina as a full time Minister of Music for a large suburban Episcopal Church in the region around the state capitol and I still regularly perform as a guest musician on bass trombone in the southeast region with upper tier ensembles. Why should you care about that? Only if I can impress upon you that I have played (and continue to play) at many great venues all over the United States and Europe with many great orchestras, so when I say that Abravanel Hall is a fine hall both acoustically and visually, I am comparing it to Carnegie Hall, David Geffen Hall, Kennedy Center's Concert Hall, Powell Symphony Hall, Meymandi Hall, Davies Symphony Hall and Heinz Hall to name just a few. And if you don't know where or what any of those are, that in itself points to the biggest problem with this harebrained idea that you can knock down Abravanel Hall and build another hall that's just as good. Abravanel Hall is a great musical venue and one of the best sounding in the world. It is easy to talk of the nostalgia of all the great artists who have come through Abravanel Hall, and the amazing historical performances as I am sure many who write to you will do, that is really not biggest loss to my mind. Granted, it would be a travesty for you to discount all of that. But frankly, the notion that you can just knock down Abravanel Hall and build another hall just as good is as ill-informed as it is asinine. The odds of anyone building a concert hall as acoustically fine as Abravanel are very small. Even with the best acousticians, architects, and builders that money can buy there is always a good chance that things won't turn out as well in reality as they did on paper.</p>

Date/Time Opened	Contact Name	Subject	Description
5/14/2024 15:25	Rusty McKinney 2/2	Save Abravanel Hall	<p>And frankly, from the caviller attitude that I am picking up on from the “planners” of this travesty, I doubt you would be working with a budget that would allow the best to be had. And you can’t get Cyril Harris to design the sound for you, for he died 13 years ago. And guess what? He worked on the acoustics of several of the halls that I listed earlier. Salt Lake City has a rare item in Abravanel Hall and there is no good reason to destroy it. That’s the long and the short of it. You will not duplicate it and you probably can’t even afford to, even if you could. Do the right thing. Leave Abravanel Hall where it is and take care of it for the generations of Utahns to come that will enjoy great things there, be they youth ensembles performances, graduations or great performances from one of the great orchestras in the country, the Utah Symphony. It will cost you much less to do that, than to let a sports mogul call the shots. I have to wonder out loud if Larry Miller would have even thought of doing such I thing. I sincerely doubt it. When Richard Eyre made his comment about it being a “generational blunder” to tear down Abravanel Hall, he was being very generous. But I will go with his genteel language and urge you not to make this blunder.</p> <p>Russell McKinney Minister of Music St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Director of Music Raleigh Convocation Choir  Episcopal Diocese of NC Artistic Director Oak City Voices Formerly, Bass Trombonist Utah Symphony Orchestra</p>