

JUNE 18, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING
POSITION STATEMENTS & WRITTEN COMMENTS

PUBLIC FORUM

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. **Ashley M Penick (Naperville)** - During the May 21st Naperville city council meeting, Councilman McBroom brought up a concern. The Naperville Chamber as well as various restaurant owners addressed the tip credit bill HB 5345 in the Illinois legislature. As the bill stands, it would eliminate the tip credit for tipped employees people like bartenders, nail technicians, barbers etcetera.

I've been in the hospitality industry for over 20 years having every job from manager, server, bartender, to food runner. If this bill came to fruition, it will double labor costs overnight and owners would have no other choice then to either cut hours, lay people off, or even go out of business. It's no wonder experienced people in the hospitality industry are in opposition to this.

Councilman McBroom is on the legislative committee for the Chamber. This is an important issue to Naperville because we have the second largest hospitality economy in the state after Chicago, as I was reminded recently during BASSET training for Naperville. As you know, the food and beverage tax provides funding for cultural events and safety for the city.

Naperville no longer has a lobbyist, so if an issue needs to be addressed to the legislature, then the city sends a letter. The Naperville Chamber had asked the city to submit a letter to the legislature in opposition to this bill. Councilman McBroom asked city manager, Doug Krieger, why a letter wasn't sent. Krieger said three of you opposed this, that's why no letter was sent.

From the testimony of Councilwoman Taylor and Councilman Wilson, this was the first year that Naperville hadn't had a lobbyist. Whether we like it or not, lobbyists are necessary.

Why we stopped spending money for a lobbyist or lobbying firm is unsure. We are the fourth largest city in the state and we don't have somebody down in Springfield watching out for us? The only way that we state our position is through a letter? It's just not practical.

Some people will say "it's money that's wasted." We need a fiscally responsible lobbyist watching out for our best interest. It's incomprehensible to me how legislators, lobbyists, bureaucrats, and private citizens try to solve problems that don't exist through legislation.

Thousands of bills are proposed in the Illinois legislature every session. Many times bills die in committee, but it doesn't mean that it won't come back next session. This bill in particular is stuck in committee, as of now its dead, let's keep it that way.

The best way for us to be on top of what is actually going on is to have an advocate for the city of Naperville. Now how much a lobbyist is I don't know, but I strongly recommend that at least in next years budget that you put in funding in for a lobbyist, because this is the best way to keep Springfield in check for our local concerns.

I don't know which three of you opposed this letter, but I would love to have you contact me and I will explain to you why this is so wrong. We need to nip this sooner than later.

I'm hoping you'll be FOR the entire service and hospitality industry in Naperville.

Thank You

O1 Approve the 2024-2026 City Priorities Plan

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

1. **Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville)** - What is missing from each of these categories is looking at how the City's existing codes and ordinances could be updated to better serve our community. Some examples are:
 - 1) Mobility: It's not just getting someplace, but gaining access as well. The ACTF and Senior Task Force have asked the City to embrace visitability. Many new businesses want a drive-thru only model which runs counter to safe pedestrian/bicycle access. Our codes could be better.
 - 2) Natural Environment/Community Design: Codes could be improved to better encourage and support sustainable landscaping at homes, businesses, and parkways.
 - 3) Safety: Building codes could enhance to limit damage in the case of natural disasters and provide better insurability/
 - 4) Utilities: Building codes could also be updated to lessen the load on our utilities.

O3 Receive the report on the Naperville Fire Department CART Program

WRITTEN COMMENT ONLY

2. **Marilyn L Schweitzer (Naperville)** - This is a wonderful program. Thank you Naperville Fire Department for deploying the program and City Council for supporting it.