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Thanks!  
again!  
Norma

### A model City

This is a continuation on my talk about the environment and change. Tonight, I want to be more specific. Because, let's face it folks, the days of luxury-living for the average family are coming to an end. And there is no question, man and landscape must come together to meet each other's needs. Moreover, as of today, our government still has not moved forward with strategies to significantly make a difference in climate. In fact, according to reports, the planet is getting warmer. And one of the best ways to change that is right in our communities, and empowerment. And one of the simplest ways is cut down on the inordinate amount of stuff we buy, most which is unnecessary increasing not decreasing year by year- mostly due to the assault from big business who has the greatest impact on how we live and what we buy as the chickens come home to roost. Larger ships, expanding harbors, more containers, more oil spills, more pollution. And unfortunately most of it is plastic, disposable and or cheaply made to be thrown out soon. unfortunately our children are the ones who'll pay the heavy burden of a different life cleaning up our mess and figuring out what to do with the Swiffer-Picker-Uppers, above-ground pools, plastic playgrounds, and on and on, to include jumbo-sized batteries. I talked about this before.

And probably the largest market? I read packaging accounts for half of all solid waste generated globally, most which never gets recycled. It costs us numerous ways, littering our pathways and rivers, and in the disposal. Always finding new applications, it's a scalable problem that keeps growing, and more of it means new oil wells in even once sanctioned parts of the world. And much is from prepared foods.

Today Increasingly, people are walking around eating and drinking as the quality of life is compromised further. Food is precious. Plus, a meal prepared at home tells our stories, not someone else's. And It insures it is safe, healthy and politically correct. Plus again, the litter.

And Last year Americans went through about 50 billion 2 liter plastic bottles of water. Endemic, hugely problematic; <sup>WATER</sup> bottles are scattered on athletic fields, sidewalks and both in and along our rivers and wilderness.- Some even unopened, and that looks bad as people

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around the world- and though we are having a lot of it right now, in our own country are experiencing water shortages. It's a trend as hydration is being pushed on the market. We should know, our tap water is not only free of contaminants, it's graded. If there was a serious problem, no one would have access to tap water. The public should know that the system would shut down with emergency warnings. Plus A Water Quality Report is issued consumers each year- required by law and Safe Drinking Water Reports, and each day the water is tested. If the public still doesn't trust the city, invest in a reasonably priced water filter for your tap, or at least buy it in gallons, why they sell those fancy thermoses.

Lowelleans must take the bull by the horns, and prepare right now for a very different future. My recommendation is this, one, no tolerance, strict enforcement of the ordinance, \$50 no-litter fine. Two, a city- wide tax on take-out- to include doordash-- a problem in an of itself with more vehicles on our roads and people delivering food without identification basically strangers, even walking into apartments. And the tax? Say, sandwiches, subs, pizza, coffee, donuts, soda, all cooked prepared food, and ~~water~~ <sup>EXCEPT FOR GALLONS</sup> water bottles, for starters. And if eateries and grocers have a problem with that language, which they probably will, we can inform them we're taking legal action as it offsets our environmental goals reducing trash in our city.

And third, COVID or not, you'd better wear a surgical mask come trash day in the summer. Our fair city is like living in a time warp. Dumpsters overflow, the new trash barrels get beat up, still draw maggots like before, and stinking trucks still fly around the neighborhood even Saturdays when people are finally home to enjoy the weekend. "*What if Everything could be used Again* and, "*What if nothing was considered waste?*" the lettering on the side of the truck couldn't get more graphic. The solution?, even though some companies are making safe products out of some of our stuff it's just more ending up the same way. Besides, I read the recycling business is dying. It doesn't take rocket science to know we should be investing in waste-to-energy, everything burned.

Last, as costs climb and we have shortages, like the truck says, we need to have a place like Merrimack, NH where we can take are gently used goods, appliances and building

materials instead of out on the street to be ruined, or junked.

We cannot rely on old habits. Let's put Lowell back on the map. Because, it's also time to stop pouring millions into the past and the cultural ethnic-driven-agendas. It includes empty Trolleys, and for the most part, locals taking their youngsters for rides. A signal for change, tell Washington the future needs us; we need to invest in energy, housing and farmland.

The third item concerns our animals. Today, approximately ninety six million cats and eight million dogs are in the U.S. Reports also indicate approximately 50 percent of American households are home to at least one dog or cat. They're everywhere, and so is the excrement, picked up or not, unsanitary and unsavory, especially in the city. Meanwhile, our web of life we are losing habitats for wildlife faster and no one seems to pay much attention. Along with wildlife extinction, another huge concern is the enormous quantities of food fed to pets, much that's animal based. What can the city do? Other cities, New York for example have more regulation controlled by way of their government. There is no question but for Lowell to take action, too. As they say, Anything is possible with God.

But I just want to say quickly it's gratifying the council is taking some action to the homeless/pan handler problems. But Beggars are still in your face at the Lord Overpass, filthy and unsanitary, and that's an insult and unsafe for the community, especially as everybody is carrying a weapon these days. we provide entitlements to these people, so why are they out there? Drug money. And that's a problem for another time. But I do need to raise the question before I go as to the shortage of patrol officers walking the city to better see what's going on. Maybe we aren't getting enough recruits. I couldn't blame them as they're getting assaulted verbally and otherwise- a dangerous place for us to be. Another topic for another time. Last, briefly, I also want to bring up the subject of buying into Tewksbury State hospital as a possible solution and ~~for~~ for other exploration and development, such as placement for men and women guilty of non-violent crimes, as an alternative to prison, and or the homeless as a commune, reformatory, vocational center,

THANK YOU for your time, etc, etc,