

Bryant, Shellie

From: Gail Stevens [REDACTED]
Sent: November 14, 2019 5:57 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Attachments: letter_to_councilor.docx

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Submitted values are:

Date Thursday, November 14, 2019

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Gail

Last Name Stevens

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Silverwood Road

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable)

Subject Speed limits on McOrmond Road

Meeting (if known) November 18 Council Meeting

Comments

Good morning,

I sent the attached letter to my councillor, Mr. Donauer, and request that other councillors receive it, as well.

Thank you.

Gail Stevens

Attachments

letter_to_councilor.docx

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/letter_to_councilor.docx>

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/349252>

November 8, 2019

Dear Councillor Donauer,

As one of your constituents, I write to assure you that I am comfortable with the reduced speed on the section of McOrmond Road that crosses the Swale.

I can understand why some constituents might complain about needing to slow down to avoid killing wildlife, and to protect their own safety by avoiding wildlife collisions.

Public policy must be for the common good, with the understanding that good public policy might entail some inconvenience. Sometimes, as individual citizens, we forget that.

I lived away for over ten years and returned here four years ago to my home city, Saskatoon. Over the period of my absence, reduced speed signs were posted in school zones. This was new for me. I found this rather inconvenient. I was not used to slowing down that much. It took me a while to adjust to the change. However, the City had made the right decision to protect life, and I whole-heartedly support that decision.

Similarly, municipalities have a duty to protect vulnerable ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife within the larger natural environment, of which our City is an interconnected part. Federal and provincial law protects endangered species, for example, some of which are residents in the swale.

Some may find that slowing down on part of McOrmond Road is inconvenient. I believe, however, that doing so is a relatively small adjustment for mature adults to make. I trust that they are able to adjust, just as we adjusted to reduce our speed in school zones.

We trust our elected representatives to consider the big picture, and avoid the narrow self-interest that sometimes blind us, as individuals, to the common good. It is in the best interests of our shared ecosystem that we retain the reduced speed requirement when drivers cross the swale.

Hopefully, in the future, the location of public roads and bridges will consider ecosystem impacts more seriously. Since McOrmond Road and Chief Mistawasis Bridge have already been built through the swale, it is reasonable that drivers reduce speed in order to mitigate more harm to wildlife and people. (As one who totaled my car when I hit a deer, I speak from experience!)

Thank you for accepting the challenge of seeing the big picture. As my councillor, I urge you to support decisions which respect the interests of life in the swale, including retention of the slower speed zone.

Sincerely,

Gail Stevens

[REDACTED] Silverwood Road