

**Subject:** Email - Request to Speak - Sandi Kerger - Victoria Bike Lane Project - CK 6000-5 x 7000-1

**From:** Web NoReply <[web-noreply@saskatoon.ca](mailto:web-noreply@saskatoon.ca)>

**Sent:** Saturday, April 24, 2021 10:25 PM

**To:** City Council <[City.Council@saskatoon.ca](mailto:City.Council@saskatoon.ca)>

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--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Saturday, April 24, 2021 - 22:24

Submitted by user: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

Date Saturday, April 24, 2021

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Sandi

Last Name Kerger

Phone Number (306) [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] Victoria Avenue

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7H [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Not Applicable

Subject Victoria Bike Lane Project (Item 8.2.4 of Agenda)

Meeting (if known) Regular Business Meeting of City Council, April 26, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Comments

I am requesting to speak at this meeting, if possible. I have no idea what time this will happen and I do instruct on-line classes for students at 2:15 p.m., however, if I know of the approximate time, I can mute these classes and go into the City's website on another browser or computer. I would appreciate it, if possible, if you could give me some idea of what time this item will be discussed. I have also attached a letter that I would like submitted for the meeting. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

April 24, 2021

TO: Saskatoon City Councillors

#### BIKE LANE PROJECT – 8 BLOCKS – VICTORIA AVENUE

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I wish to express my thoughts regarding the City of Saskatoon's plan to have bike lanes on Victoria Avenue.

I have written numerous emails, letters and this week attended the Buena Vista Community Association meeting and spoke to Cynthia Block and the board members of BVCA.

Some of the facts concerning the bike lane project are as follows:

- Back alleys are not a viable option for the residents of Victoria to have to use with no other access available to them, as they are not maintained, are unsafe, unreliable, and cannot be used as the only method of for the Buena Vista Residents. I do not think there will be any disagreement with that issue with the Buena Vista Residents and hopefully, the City understands that as well.
- If front street parking is now removed, residents now have no access to servicing of their homes; they lose the ability to go to work safely during the winter; people with mobility or disability issues lose access to their homes; parking spots for tenants and visitors are lost, etc... The City has supported infill development in this area, which means increased density and increased need for parking spots. Most of these infill houses are on narrow lots, with either no garages or small detached garages, (which garages have to be accessed via back alleys that are not maintained). Many of these infill properties have tenants, which means a tenant requires a parking spot. I would imagine that some of these homeowners are relying on tenants to help them make their mortgage payments. Removal of parking would cause financial hardship for the homeowners, property values would decrease, businesses and tenancies would suffer.
- A Petition by Denise Balcean has been submitted to the City. This Petition as of Saturday, April 24, 2021, now has 565 signatures on it. At the BVCA Meeting, one of the arguments against this Petition was that this Petition could not possibly have been signed by just Buena Vista Residents, because of the sheer numbers – my response to that is some of the people signing this Petition may or may not have been resident in the area, but they are affected by the removal of front street parking – two personal examples I can give you, is my sprinkler person phoned me and wanted to sign the Petition as it affects him having access to my home with his work vehicle. My daughter signed this Petition as she has small children she brings over when I have to babysit or visit with them and it affects her as well. It is painfully clear from this Petition that there is very little, if any, support for bike lanes on Victoria Avenue, and I believe the City knows that and I sure hope the Councillors recognize this as a fact. I also know letters/emails have been written and phone calls made to Councillors in other areas of the City speaking out against this project. I cannot believe that a Petition with this many signatures can be

discounted or ignored by the City and the Councillors. Do the residents' concerns not matter to anyone?

- It is also obvious that the way the residents were originally notified of this bike lane project was not done effectively. If a newspaper article, a Petition and neighbours informing each other of this project can generate this much discussion and dissention, then someone dropped the ball when initially attempting to inform the residents of the repercussions of this project.
- The only options that should even be considered are Option 4 or Option 6 (which is do nothing at all) **and also a third option**, to table this bike lane project, go back to the drawing board, look at less intrusive options for bike lanes in this area, have discussions/meetings with the residents and people affected by this proposed loss of parking and access to our homes. I and some of my neighbours would absolutely volunteer to inform the residents and get them to attend a meeting to discuss this project. I mention this because one item that was discussed at the BVCA meeting last week, was a lack of attendance at their meetings by residents to discuss this project, and because of this the BVCA was reluctant and/or unwilling to offer an opinion on the bike lane project. Again, I refer you to the fact that I believe the residents were not properly informed of the ramifications of this project. I guarantee you we can get a good number of residents out to discuss this project if a meeting were called – whether it be by the Community Association, the City or the residents.

Finally, I want to share two stories from two Buena residents that emailed me and telephoned me after the newspaper article concerning the bike lane project.

- There is a young woman who just purchased her first home in Buena Vista. She has a legal home based salon, so she requires her clients to be able to park and enter fairly easily. She has three boarders/tenants to help make ends meet. They each have a vehicle. Her entire livelihood and life will be very quickly and adversely affected by the current bike lanes project. It may in fact decimate her livelihood entirely. She asked that someone mention to the city councillors who may live in more suburban settings where driveways and garages are the norm, that before making a decision for us, they consider what life would be like for them without the ease and comfort of parking their vehicles and being able to access their homes.
- There was another lady that telephoned and said she has lived in Buena Vista for some 40+ years and lives by Buena Vista Park – she said she loves the neighbourhood and in her younger years did much volunteer work for the various events on Broadway (I am assuming events like the Fringe, Street Fairs, etc..). She said when there are events in the park (like lawn bowling, children events/activities, etc..) all parking spots by the park are full and it is quite congested. She further stated that parking spots right now are at a premium and there is a serious lack of parking available at the present time. She said she can't function if she loses the front parking in terms of servicing and accessing her home. She had workers with vehicles from either SaskEnergy or SaskPower at her home and told them soon they may not be able to park in front of her house and they were also surprised and dismayed. She concluded our conversation by saying, you know, if only the City would spend our money (and it is taxpayer's money) differently. She said why not use the money allotted for this project for the greater good – why

not try to buy and update some buildings (she mentioned older hotels/motels/condos) for the homeless people, the kids living under our bridges, people with addiction issues and the people that are less fortunate. She said no one would have any issues with that and people would applaud money being well spent on more important issues, especially during COVID. It really struck home with me when she made that comment and I kept thinking why are we spending any money on, quite frankly, the privileged few, in some kind of attempt to get people not to use their cars as a means of transportation in a province where we have such extreme weather and challenges regarding mobility.

Thank you.

**SANDI KERGER**