

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Lucy Stobbe - Bike Safety Within the City - CK 6000-5

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:43 AM

To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>

Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Lucy Stobbe - Bike Safety Within the City - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 - 10:42

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Lucy

Last Name: Stobbe

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: StObE

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Alexandra avenue

Neighbourhood: [North Park](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Request to Speak

If speaking will you be attending in person or remotely: In person

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: The city council meeting on June 28th

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Bike safety within the city

Comments:

I am a 17-year-old Saskatoon high school student sick and tired of being threatened, hassled, and yelled at regularly just for going to school. My only crime is that I have chosen an active lifestyle and bike to school year-round. The city has so few bike lanes and the patience of drivers is so poor that I am frequently yelled and honked and threatened by aggressive drivers. On May 24th a kindergarten teacher at the elementary school where I attended was killed simply trying to live an active lifestyle. This is crazy.

This past semester I have been a part of Outdoor School, which promotes active and green transportation. Along with the Outdoor School, the public and Catholic schools both have specialized grade eight programs encouraging students to bike to school year-round. There is a large absence of education about cyclists on the road for both drivers and cyclists. For example, it is a city bylaw that anyone over the age of 13 can NOT ride a bicycle on a sidewalk. Having just obtained a driver's license I can also testify to the lack of education given to new drivers about driving around cyclists. Perhaps if drivers old and new don't feel confident driving around cyclists they could take a driving safety course to gain confidence. I am wanting to see SGI taking on the initiative of teaching drivers how to properly act around cyclists, because we all belong on the road, and deserve to have a safe space.

I understand bicycles can slow down traffic flow a bit, but really, it isn't that much. I challenge any driver stuck behind a cyclist and unable to pass safely to count to 30 and see if they are still being slowed down by that bicycle. For the sake of 30 seconds are drivers really willing to endanger someone's life? With the advent of e-bikes the number of cyclists on the streets is only going to increase and so must awareness and education. As a bonus for drivers, the more cyclists the more available parking spots!

I haven't even talked about how often I see drivers on a cell phones at intersections and on the road. If a driver is inattentive for a few seconds they might dent their car. If that dent is caused by a cyclist's helmet the repercussions are much more serious.

On June 18th, I lead a bike Rally which showed both bikers and drivers that bikes belong on the road, and it is ok for us to be there. There were over 100 people who showed up, and all those people were asked to write a letter to the city council asking to have safer bike options throughout the city.

In conclusion, the only thing I am asking for is to be able to bike to school and work without having my friends and family worry about me. Whether that be bike lanes, especially downtown or in areas of high traffic, or education and signage for drivers as well as cyclists to know how to commute safely.

As leaders of our city, you have the power to keep cyclists safe on the roads, it is up to you to pull through and implement those safety measures in order to keep the citizens of the city safe.

Thank you

- An avid cyclist who wants to stay safe
- Lucy

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No