

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Request to Speak - Jason Hanson - Connecting Avenue C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5

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

Sent: Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:05 PM

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

Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Jason Hanson - Connecting Avenue C - Walking and Cycling Improvement Project - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Sunday, December 17, 2023 - 17:04

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: Sunday, December 17, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Jason

Last Name: Hanson

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue H South

Neighbourhood: [King George](#)

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):: CITY COUNCIL AGENDA – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING – Wednesday, 20 December 2023

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 9.2.1 Connecting Avenue C: Walking and Cycling Improvement Project

Comments:

This letter from Greg Yuel of The P.I.C. Investment Group was originally addressed to safe cycling advocate and business owner Greg McKee as well as any other interested party. Mr. Yuel is unable to be here today, so I'm relaying a slightly edited version with his permission and endorsement.

"Dear Greg,

Thank you for taking your time and energy to represent those of us in Saskatoon that want a healthier and safer community related to transportation and fitness.

In addition to any other dedicated bike lane investment that should be made within the City of Saskatoon, let me paint a picture of an extremely obvious lane with nearly zero negative consequences and providing the greatest benefit for the business community and those wanting to live a healthy lifestyle."

[Here, Mr. Yuel describes a route for Avenue C very similar to the Connect Ave. C proposal, which we've redacted to avoid confusion with the motion before us today.]

"Business owners in the Airport Business District and in the north end who employ people in the lowest socio-economic strata are out of available labour. Expecting part-time and full-time minimum wage labourers to own a vehicle is assumptive, but leaving them to use public transportation as the only safe access to their jobsite is cruel. The bus schedules available cause people to spend an hour or more from the neighbourhoods where they most likely reside (west-end or alphabet neighbourhood). If they have a specific start time that they are afraid of being late for, they could spend 3-4 hours per day travelling to and from work. Any average person can bicycle from Avenue D and 18 th Street to Hanselman & Haskamp in 30 minutes.

And today they do so while completely taking their own safety into their own hands.

The City of Edmonton invested in a bike plan in 1993 on 125 th Street allowing me to bike 4/5ths of the way to my job (from downtown) on a dedicated street.

Our city is 30 years behind a simple solution in comparison to a city with identical climate and driving habits in Edmonton. No resident along that route complained. Their property values went up and their street became quieter and infinitely safer for their kids.

Nothing happens in Saskatoon.

We elect a Mayor and Council to look after the best interests of all citizens and for the long term health and efficiency of our city because they'll get access to that in likely 10-40 years from now. Special attention is supposed to be placed on the needs of the most vulnerable and the poorest and at some expense to those that can afford it most. We wish to pull-up our poorest (not drag down our richest). That is what every citizen signs-up for by agreeing to be part of a society.

A business owner in our city must be learning in real time that if they want to attract employees they better be taking care of their people as much as they can. The airport, hotels and industrial enterprises grow our economy. But only if we have labour that can get to work safely and efficiently. We pay taxes for the city to take care of the transportation logistics required for our growth. So far, leadership in this area is woefully lacking. The vision seems to be there, but with zero action, the vision is a daydream.

If I were a new immigrant living in Riversdale and with a job at the airport I have three transfers and a 3 block walk in-between one of the transfers. What if I could safely ride my bike for 30-minutes? Healthier city. Safer city. I would be in control of my schedule instead of being scared of missing a bus and being late.

Keep up the effort Mr. McKee. I am very tired of [us] being a city so far behind the times. Basically, we are losing. I hate losing.”

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