

## Janzen, Heather

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**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Anna Ringstrom - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5  
**Attachments:** letter to COS Council June 2023.pdf

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

**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 7:28 AM

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

**Subject:** Email - Communication - Anna Ringstrom - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Monday, June 26, 2023 - 07:27

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:** Monday, June 26, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** She/her/hers

**First Name:** Anna

**Last Name:** Ringstrom

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** An-na Ring-strom

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED] Main Street

**Neighbourhood:** [Nutana](#)

**City:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known)::** June 28th Regular Business meeting of City Council @ 9:30am

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** 14.1 Councillor C. Block - Cycling Safety [CC2023-0602] 368 - 385

**Comments:**

This is a letter of support for C. Block's motion.

**Attachments:**

- [letter to COS Council June 2023.pdf](#)40.41 KB

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

Anna Ringstrom  
[REDACTED] Main Street  
Saskatoon, SK [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

June 21, 2023

To Saskatoon City Council:

I am a 20-year resident of Saskatoon and an avid cyclist. I have used my bike to commute since I was a junior high school student in Winnipeg. I've cycled to and from university classes in Edinburgh, Scotland and Montreal, PQ and while working as professional landscape architect in downtown Portland, Oregon. I am a board member of the Saskatchewan Trails Association and belong to two local cycling clubs. I cycle all year round and am extremely proud of the trail system in Saskatoon and eager show it off to friends who visit from other places.

I am not, however, proud or content with the cycling infrastructure on Saskatoon's roads and I avoid, whenever possible, cycling on the city's streets because I find it a dangerous place to ride by bike. I believe that a culture of sloppy and careless driving is partly to blame, as well as a lack of dedicated space for those of us who choose to commute by bicycle. I believe that if it was not for the trail system managed by the Meewasin Valley Authority, Saskatoon would be a dismal place to be a cyclist or pedestrian. Unfortunately, the trails along the river are not enough to get cyclists to the places they need to go.

I also do not feel safe as a pedestrian, especially in our downtown area, where motorists often do not stop at red lights while making right hand turns. I work downtown and have experienced several close calls with vehicles while walking through intersections in our downtown, and adopted a very defensive and cautious attitude as I approach intersections, where vehicles often turn in front of pedestrians even when they don't have the right of way.

I believe that something should urgently be done to address the problem of bicycle and pedestrian safety in Saskatoon and the danger that intersections pose. I think the issue of vehicles making right-hand turns without stopping to look for pedestrians and cyclists is something that urgently needs to be addressed. The issue is so problematic that I support a city-wide ban on vehicular right-hand turns.

It has come to my attention that Councillor Block (Ward 6), in the wake of the tragic death of Natasha Fox on May 24, has introduced motions to council that would attempt to address cycling safety concerns at the intersection of College Dr. and Wiggins Ave. These motions include:

- a third-party road safety audit at the intersection
- funding for the above audit
- an update on the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan
- a budget option for an annual Road Safety Audit program

I applaud Councillor Block for introducing these motions and support these and any future motions that urgently address safety for people riding bikes with a focus on infrastructure for all ages and abilities. I have lived in cities with excellent cycling infrastructure that often also addressed pedestrian safety at the same time. I do not think that the City of Saskatoon needs to 'reinvent the wheel' in this situation - we have plenty of excellent examples of what good active transportation infrastructure looks like and simple solutions do exist. This is a city that often sets up the dialogue between motorists and cyclists as an antagonistic 'us vs. them' battle. I don't agree that there needs to be a loser in this scenario; we can have excellent cycling infrastructure and not inconvenience the flow of vehicles in our city.

Implementing safe cycling infrastructure will require changes to the status quo and are community needs to be prepared to embrace change or innovation. I urge you to be bold and brave and stand-up to the people that do not imagine that things can be better and still function well.

I would also like to suggest that the City of Saskatoon implement bike boxes at busy intersections, like the corner of College and Wiggins. As this is one of the busiest entry points for students and staff commuting to the University of Saskatchewan, it makes sense that this intersection would be the location of the first of many of these life-saving design features. I'll include a link that explains what bike boxes are and how they work to save lives:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/301213>

I was shocked and saddened by the tragic manner in which Natasha Fox died and I want to live in a city that cares enough to do something meaningful toward preventing something like this from ever happening again.

Sincerely,

Anna Ringstrom, CSLA