

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Ava McDonald - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5
Attachments: Ava and Rielle Bike Letter.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 11:38 AM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Ava McDonald - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Monday, June 26, 2023 - 11:35

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: Ava

Last Name: McDonald

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: City Park School, 820 9th Avenue North

Neighbourhood: [Stonebridge](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7K2Z2

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

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Wednesday, June 28th, 2023 Regular Business Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: 14. Cycling Safety

Comments:

The address used is to represent our school, City Park, however we live in Stonebridge and Dundonald neighbourhood.

Attachments:

- [Ava and Rielle Bike Letter.pdf](#)22.25 KB

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

To: Saskatoon City Council

Ava: My name is Ava McDonald and I am a 14-year old student in the Ecoquest program. I believe something must be addressed is driver etiquette. When a person is cycling on the road, they are by law a vehicle. Therefore, they should be treated and respected like one. When you are biking on the road, everything is louder, bigger, and scarier. You are so much more vulnerable. So, when you get honked at or swerved at, it poses a much more dangerous situation. A loud honk or noise could scare a cyclist, causing them to lose balance, and fall into ongoing traffic. All we need is a little patience from drivers and I feel the relationship between the two could improve. I believe that educating new drivers on bike signals and signage is important because education is the key to success. There have been many times when I've correctly signed the turn I am about to make, and drivers still act confused or just give me the right of way even when I don't have it. I find this frustrating because I am doing what I need to do, and yet my safety is still threatened. This causes even more confusion which creates an uneasy relationship between bikers and drivers. Reasons we should take action include the following: Bikers deserve to feel safe. They should never have to worry about their own safety to the point where it causes them to not go out.

Biking is the most cost-efficient, environmentally friendly, and healthy way to get around. If we could get to a place where there are more bikers on the road than drivers, our pollution would go down significantly, there would be fewer car accidents, and education would become more relevant. However, that is the thing. We shouldn't have to have hundreds of thousands of people biking for the proper knowledge to be obtained. There are bikers in our city, and they deserve to be heard.

Rielle: There have been positive and negative experiences with cyclists and drivers I can say myself I have even felt unsafe biking in bike lanes from people parking in the bike lanes and weaving in and out of cars is not safe and confuses the drivers of the road at the end of the day we need better and more protected bike lanes because all bike lanes are is a painted line on the road.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Together, we have the influence to make our city bike safe for ourselves and future generations.

Sincerely,

Ava and Rielle