

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Robert Judge - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2023 9:57 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Robert Judge - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Sunday, June 25, 2023 - 21:56

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, June 25, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Judge

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Avenue K South

Neighbourhood: [King George](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

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

Comments:

To Saskatoon Mayor, Council and administration.

As a resident, a voter and a taxpayer in Saskatoon I am demanding something be done about cycling safety. As a car-free family, we rely on bicycles to get to work, school, shopping and all other destinations. We contribute many thousands of dollars per year to the local economy by bike, a fact that is underestimated and undervalued by businesspeople and public sector planners alike. We have to make do with a patchwork of poorly planned, frequently interrupted and decrepit bike paths where they exist at all. I tell my loved ones to ride on the sidewalk wherever it poses no threat to pedestrians, because I want them to come home alive. We have been ticketed and gone to court twice in Saskatoon for doing this. Not because we have any desire to break the law, but because the infrastructure simply is not there. Our city has let us down.

I am glad my loved ones have listened to my advice and are now alive, unlike the horrific story of Natasha Fox who was taken from her family by a cement truck. I ask you, in all fairness, would you rather your loved ones break a poorly thought-out bylaw, or be killed by a truck? Again, properly designed infrastructure and putting the onus for cyclist safety where it belongs would make this tension unnecessary. Cycling is the only mode of transportation where it can be safer to break the law here than to follow it.

I am incensed that the driver who killed Natasha Fox was let off without any legal consequences whatsoever. Her death may have been unintentional. The motorist involved may indeed be remorseful. But it's vitally important our culture of coddling motorists who often drive too quickly, too aggressively, in a state of distraction and paying very little heed to the safety of people on foot or bike, understand they will be held accountable. The message this sends to all motorists is "do the minimum required and we'll forgive you for anything that might happen unexpectedly." This is unacceptable. In places where they actually care about the lives of people on bicycles, such as the Netherlands, the onus is on the motorist to prove they did all they could to ensure the safety of anyone they injure with their car. Kill someone with a gun in Saskatoon and you will be charged. Kill someone with a car and you walk away free. What kind of message does this send to people?

It's depressing and frustrating to watch as other cities move forward with practical and safe bike lane networks while Saskatoon languishes. It would appear that a certain loud-mouthed radio commentator with a personal hatred of bike lanes and a bullying penchant for bestowing nick-names has created fear in Saskatoon's city hall for joining the 21st Century when it comes to bike lanes. I hope that our city hall responds to the needs of the many rather than the loud noise of an angry minority who are afraid of change, even when it's change for the better.

The fact that cycling helps us meet our greenhouse gas commitments, makes our citizens healthier and happier, makes our neighbourhoods better places to live and improves our economy, makes it even more urgent that we take immediate meaningful steps to encourage practical daily cycling in Saskatoon rather than the self-defeating course we have been on. Saskatoon needs to learn from cities who have made themselves bike-friendly.

Thank you for your attention to this vital issue,

Robert Judge
Saskatoon.

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