

Janzen, Heather

Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Jason Hanson - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 4:31 PM

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

Subject: Email - Communication - Jason Hanson - Councillor C Block - Cycling Safety - CK 6000-5

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

Submitted on Monday, June 26, 2023 - 16:31

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

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 ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known): Regular Business City Council Meeting

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Councillor Block's Motions on Cycling Safety

Comments:

Mayor Clark and Saskatoon City Council,

I wrote to council years ago at the request of Cathy Watts, the cycling advocacy champion of Saskatoon, to support her efforts to bring bikes lanes to the downtown. At the time, my letter stressed that I did not need such infrastructure for myself (I'm confident/cocky enough to feel comfortable on our streets), but I sure wanted it for my mom, my sister, my numerous nieces and nephews, and ALL the other people who might want to "BYXE" but wouldn't for fear of their life.

That letter didn't seem to help, because shortly after, one pilot bike lane was ripped out, the remaining one neglected, and other active transportation plans were delayed. The city appeared to shift into reverse from a promising drive to a safer, cleaner city. And Cathy died (For the record, I don't think City Council intended that as a consequence).

In the years following, three things have shifted my brainspace:

1. I've started working part-time with Saskatoon Cycles, and through that I've come to know how many bright, enthusiastic, and passionate people are working in and with the city to make safer cycling a reality here. I *know* there is great vision and desire to catapult XYE into being truly "BYXE". I have faith.
2. Natasha Fox died cycling in this city, probably riding in a manner similar to mine. My letter from years ago expresses an arrogance that nothing bad will happen to me because "I follow the rules" or "I'm vigilant" or "I've had training". The reality is that when a city's infrastructure is slavishly designed to move cars and trucks at optimal efficiency at the sake of all other modes, people are going to die. It won't matter how adept the cyclists or pedestrians are at watching and avoiding traffic, it will happen because a disregard for other modes of travel is BUILT INTO the current infrastructure.
3. My fiancée started cycling two years ago after a 20 year hiatus. She loves it. She feels refreshed in the mornings when she commutes to work, and depressurized when she comes home. She takes the Meewasin and other off-street trails when she can, and is super cautious if she takes to a street. Her smile is always wider when can bike somewhere instead of drive. I admire her, I'm proud of her, and I'm happy for her. But every time she leaves for work, I think of Natasha, and my heart stops. I imagine Natasha's family and the pain they've suffered, and I'm terrified at the idea of that tragedy happening to anyone else, including my fiancée.

My perspective has changed, but the core message is still the same. Please, mayor and council, take the steps to make this city better by making it safer to do something as simple as get from one neighbourhood to another. CRY HAVOC! and let slip the passion and expertise in your administration to BUILD the city that Saskatoon can be. Just do it! Now!

With apologies to Mr. Shakespeare, yours,

Jason Hanson

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