

From: [Susanna Smith](#)
To: [Legal Intern](#); [Legal Intern 2](#); [Legal Extern](#); [Charles Wadams](#); [Joanna Ortega](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment to be added to CPAFY-2022-0005
Date: Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:28:00 PM
Attachments: [Public Parking Statement- Megan Painter.docx](#)

From: Megan Cochran <megan.claire.cochran@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 8, 2022 10:26 AM
To: planning <planning@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>; Jenah Thornborrow <jthorn@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>; Bill Jacobs <bjacobs@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>; Russ Heller <rheller@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>; Teresa Jorgensen <tjorgensen@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>; John Evans <jevans@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>; Susanna Smith <ssmith@GARDENCITYIDAHO.ORG>
Subject: Public Comment to be added to CPAFY-2022-0005

Please add this attachment to the public comment to consideration in the Garden City Parking regulations discussion.

Thank you,

Megan Painter

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From:

megan.claire.cochran@gmail.com

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Public Comment Regarding Garden's City Parking Regulations:

Mayor, Councilmembers and to whom it may concern,

I am writing a public comment statement for consideration regarding regulations proposed for parking in the greater Garden City area.

I just wanted to speak to an issue of public safety which I feel should be adequately investigated and considered by this council and appropriately planned for as you are deciding on the issues related to public parking and in your consideration of approval of projects moving forward.

As the urban revitalization and developments continue to expand in the greater Garden City area and specifically with developments within the Surel Mitchell Work-Live-Create district we are seeing a significant reduction in public parking areas. While you are obviously considering the impacts of this, I would like to highlight the importance of our public road access, public parking areas, and response abilities in regard to emergency response personnel and public safety impacts as these areas are slowly being eroded.

As the developments, particularly along the immediate access for riverside and greenbelt areas continue to expand, it seems glaringly apparent that development projects are being approved, built and expanded without regard for adequate access for fire, police, EMS and other emergency vehicle access. We are seeing numerous housing projects, and urban development's whose plans include massive expansion into existing roadways and public access areas and also the abandonment of current public access points and parking areas. I have grave concerns about the operational and response capability for our emergency resources or to the public needing emergency response in this area moving forward.

I can't help but to look at developments such as the Casino Beach projects and note that the abandonment of public access points and open parking areas at the end of 34th street and places similar to this, are now also creating a bottleneck point for our emergency resources. These developments' proposals for "Emergency Access aisles" are concerningly, "One way in, one way out" and far too narrow for adequate emergency vehicle response: which is a very risky and dangerous predicament for Emergency resources and adds an exceedingly large degree of risk and extended response times for emergency personnel.

Looking at these projects, I have concern for greenbelt recreationalists, whitewater park recreationalists, patrons of these mixed-use developments' businesses and the residents and lodging patrons in this area in the need that they every tragically need emergency response assistance for Police, fire, or EMS. As the public parking areas currently stand, there is ample room and access for emergency response, and several access points to the Greenbelt and riverside areas for these resources in the greater Garden City area.

However, as each new project or development is approved and building completed, I have witnessed over the last few years, tighter and sometimes all together abandoned access points. I see these developments and can't help but wonder, how could we possibly get a ladder fire truck into these areas? (And we will need them: as we are approving three story structures.) How could we get a swift

water rescue team to the river in the event of a whitewater recreationalist emergency, how would residents and the public, safely exit these areas in the event of an emergency evacuation, flood, etc. without these roadways, and access points?

I encourage this council to heavily consider the impacts that abandoning these public parking areas has on public safety and emergency response capabilities. Just in the already approved projects, you have heavily decreased the emergency response capabilities for anyone having need for these resources in the riverside and greenbelt areas of Garden City. I worry about the tragic fallout of an extended response time in these scenarios. I worry about the tragic risk that could befall our first responders having to operate outside their standard operating procedures to respond to these emergencies in or near the river in these now bottle-necked or one-way access areas.

We have a responsibility to balance and moderate our need and want for urban revitalization with our responsibility to public safety. I encourage thoughtful consideration of this aspect when this council decides upon its plan for public parking areas and access points in the Greater Garden City area.

We, as vulnerable recreationalists, local residents, business owners and operators and local patrons are at your mercy in this. I implore you to consider it heavily.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

Megan Painter

Local whitewater recreationalist, emergency medical staff, and concerned citizen

208.320.2268

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or clarifications of this statement.

Please see attached photo as an example of these issues.

