Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: July 17, 2023 Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386

<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>cc</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	Reason for Redaction
7:24 PM	Erica Briggs	Joe Kovalcheck		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
7:30 PM	Lisa Disch	Brigit Macomber		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
7:32 PM	Lisa Disch	Eli Bilek		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
7:59 PM	Lisa Disch	David Cohen		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
8:11 PM	City Council All	Secretary NLG MI/Detroit		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
8:18 PM	City Council All	David Cohen		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
8:31 PM	Lisa Disch	Tom Kraft		Personal Contact Information	Privacy
8:32 PM	Lisa Disch	Tom Kraft		Personal Contact Information	Privacy

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From: Brigit Macomber
To: Disch, Lisa

Subject: Re: Unresolved City issue

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 7:30:21 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hi Lisa,

Thank you for the follow up. I'm guessing that my inquiries fell through the cracks. Perhaps because it was an oddball question that rarely comes up? It definitely didn't occur to me to contact DTE!

Though a reply even saying we have no idea what to do would have been helpful just as confirmation it was under consideration.

But thanks goodness for Kelly and her persistence!

Have a nice evening, it's beautiful out.

Brigit

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 4:35 PM Disch, Lisa < LDisch@a2gov.org > wrote: Brigit,

Sorry, I realize that A2Fixit was where you started (you mentioned the "online portal"). I know you're satisfied b/c the pole is gone but I do want to address the lack of follow-thru. I've been assured that in the case of a burned out light the City always contacts DTE on a resident's behalf. So that should have been the protocol for this as well.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City_Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx

From: Brigit Macomber < brigit.

Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 11:30 AM **To:** Reynolds, Kelly < KReynolds@a2gov.org

Cc: Disch, Lisa < LDisch@a2gov.org>; Lisa Disch <

Subject: Re: Unresolved City issue

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Success! They came by and got it today. Kelly, thank you so much for following up on this and getting it taken care of. Especially since it turned out to be a DTE issue and not a City issue. I really appreciate it!!

On Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 7:56 PM Brigit Macomber < brigit.

| Hi Kelly,

Thank you so much for following up on this. I had no idea it was DTE's pole!

It's also great to have a contact there to follow up with in case follow up is needed.

Thank you again and have a lovely weekend.

Brigit

On Fri, Jul 14, 2023 at 4:52 PM Reynolds, Kelly < <u>KReynolds@a2gov.org</u>> wrote:

All,

I have contacted DTE Energy Community Lighting Department and received a response this afternoon that a request has been submitted for the pole's removal.

This information comes from the following:

Stephanie Sharlow

DTE Energy – Community Lighting Analyst

8001 Haggerty Rd.

Belleville, MI 48111

734-397-4091

To report a streetlight outage – please click on the link below:

https://www.dteenergy.com/cso/pltr/initTrouble.do?customerType=residential

Please let me know when you receive response. I hope to know if there is resolution, or if I need to engage them further.

Have a great weekend.

Kelly

Kelly Reynolds, Executive Assistant (she/her)

Ann Arbor Mayor's Office | Guy C. Larcom City Hall | 301 E. Huron, 3rd Floor · Ann Arbor · MI · 48104

734.794.6165 (O) | Internal Extension 41602

kreynolds@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org



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A2 Be Safe. Everywhere. Everyone. Every day.

a2gov.org/A2BeSafe

From: Lisa Disch <

Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 3:30 PM

To: Macomber, Brigit (Energy Commission) < brigit.

Cc: Disch, Lisa < LDisch@a2gov.org>; Reynolds, Kelly < KReynolds@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: Unresolved City issue

appears similar to someone who previously sent you email, but may not be that person. Learn why this could be a risk

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Of course!

Lisa

On Thu, Jul 13, 2023 at 11:41 PM Brigit Macomber < brigit.

V	viou	.						
	Hi	Lisa,						
		Thanks for responding (especially in the midst of your travels, at least I think you're traveling)! Hopefully Kelly can help get to the bottom of things.						
	Th	ank you both,						
	Bri	igit						
	On	Thu, Jul 13, 2023 at 4:47 PM Lisa Disch < wrote:						
]	Hi Brigit and Ms. Reynolds,						
		I'm very sorry to hear this! It sounds like Ms. Reynolds is on the case. Please keep me posted. I can certainly put in an RFI.						
]	Lisa						
	(On Thu, Jul 13, 2023 at 4:04 PM Brigit < brigit.						
		Hi Kelly and Lisa,						
		I know that neither you will be able to help me directly with my question. But I'm at a loss as to who else to reach out to.						
		Last fall a City department, I think street lighting?, left a huge pole on the easement between the sidewalk and street in front of my house (815 Barton Drive). It's been there going on a year. I'm not sure if it's been forgotten. But it is making it difficult to maintain that area mowing wise. And I think it's treated wood and is killing the grass underneath it.						
		A few months ago I went through the online portal to ask about it and got no reply. I tried that again about a month ago. And a few weeks ago I left a message						

with someone in the street lighting department. I have not received any replies or responses to any of those inquiries.

Perhaps one of you might have an idea of who I might contact who will respond to my inquiry? That would be appreciated. I'm concerned that if the pole is leaching toxics it might start to impact the newly planted street trees within a few feet of it. Not to mention the grass and maintenance issues.

Thanks for anything you can do to help me get some answers!

Regards,

Brigit Macomber



Sent from Mail for Windows

From: <u>Eli Bilek</u>
To: <u>Disch, Lisa</u>

Subject: Re: vegetation on Traver Blvd Sidewalk near Logan Elementary

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 7:32:27 PM

Attachments: <u>image0.png</u>

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Hello again, CM Disch. See below screenshot from someone else's complaint today about the same stretch of sidewalk. I understand it's the Township's responsibility, but how do you recommend I get their attention to either trim more often or more thoroughly so that it doesn't grow back as quickly?

Thanks again for your attention.

Best, Eli





Grass or vegetation too long on private property

2619 Traver Blvd Ann Arbor, MI, 48105, USA

Acknowledged

Overhanging bushes covering sidewalk. Just west of Gretchen's house.

Show More

Comments (1)

Add a comment...

Post

Public status changes are not available for this request.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 21, 2023, at 7:12 PM, Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org> wrote:

That's an interesting thought! Maybe there's no motivation b/c it doesn't use utilities.

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor 301 E. Huron Street Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx

From: Eli Bilek <

Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 5:37 PM

To: Disch, Lisa <LDisch@a2gov.org>

Subject: Re: vegetation on Traver Blvd Sidewalk near Logan Elementary

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Has any thought been given to annexing this odd little township island?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 21, 2023, at 3:10 PM, Eli Bilek < wrote:

Thanks so much for following up!

On Wed, Jun 21, 2023 at 2:59 PM Disch, Lisa < <u>LDisch@a2gov.org</u>> wrote:

Hi Eli.

The township is responsible for the sidewalk. The City will ensure that the twp meets that responsibility but please do continue to report in if the problem returns/persists.

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor 301 E. Huron Street Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

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At: https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx

From: Harrison, Venita < VHarrison@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 10:24 AM

To: Disch, Lisa <<u>LDisch@a2gov.org</u>>; Dohoney Jr., Milton

<<u>MDohoney@a2gov.org</u>>; Fournier, John <<u>JFournier@a2gov.org</u>>;

Steglitz, Brian < BSteglitz@a2gov.org>

Cc: Matthews, Paul < <u>PMatthews@a2gov.org</u>>; Higgins, Sara

<<u>SHiggins@a2gov.org</u>>; Harrison, Venita <<u>VHarrison@a2gov.org</u>>

Subject: FW: vegetation on Traver Blvd Sidewalk near Logan Elementary

Councilmember Disch,

The maintenance of the Right of Way is the responsibility of the fronting property owner. This property is an Ann Arbor Township parcel. Staff has reached out to the Ann Arbor Township supervisor for resolution.

Thank you,

Venita Harrison, Public Services Area

City of Ann Arbor | Guy C. Larcom City Hall | 301 E. Huron, 6th Floor \cdot Ann Arbor \cdot MI \cdot 48104

734.794.6000 ext. 43102 (O) | 734.994.1816 (F)

vharrison@a2gov.org | www.a2gov.org

From: Disch, Lisa < LDisch@a2gov.org>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Request For Information Public Services

<<u>RFIPublicServices@a2gov.org</u>>

Subject: Fw: vegetation on Traver Blvd Sidewalk near Logan

Elementary

Dear Mr. Steglitz,

A resident asks whether AA Twp or AA City is responsible for trimming vegetation that is overgrowing the sidewalk on Traver BLVD near Logan Elementary. They report: "The limbs are currently completely blocking a section of the sidewalk, and encroaching along the entire length, narrowing the path. I have also heard from neighbors that there is poison oak and/or ivy along the sidewalk."

They learned from an inquiry to A2FIXIT that the affected property is in AATwp but still wonders if the City is responsible for the sidewalk. If the City is not responsible, whom should he contact at the TWP to get this important maintenance performed.

I wonder if it would be possible for the City to jog the TWP on this matter (if sidewalk maintenance falls to the TWP).

Lisa

Lisa Disch | Ward One City Council Representative

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron Street

Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8647

ldisch@a2gov.org | Watch City Council Live

At: https://www.a2gov.org/departments/communications/ctn/Pages/watch.aspx

From: Eli Bilek <

Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Disch, Lisa < LDisch@a2gov.org >
Subject: Traver Blvd Sidewalk

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

CM Disch,

I am hoping you can assist with a recurring and ongoing problem with the sidewalk vegetation on Traver Blvd near Logan Elementary. I have repeatedly submitted A2FixIt tickets to have the vegetation trimmed back off the sidewalk. The limbs are currently completely blocking a section of the sidewalk, and encroaching along the entire length, narrowing the path. I have also heard from neighbors that there is poison oak and/or ivy along the sidewalk.

The most recent time I submitted a ticket, the response was that this is Ann Arbor Township's responsibility. I see the parcel that is Township (see map below), but does that mean the Township owns the sidewalk here as well? I would have thought the city is still responsible for the sidewalk.

Are you able to clarify who is responsible for this maintenance, and how to get the responsible party to address it?

Thank you so much.

Eli Bilek

2715 Lakehurst Ln

<image.png>















Grass or vegetation too long on private property

2619 Traver Blvd Ann Arbor, MI, 48105, USA

Acknowledged

Overhanging bushes covering sidewalk. Just west of Gretchen's house.

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Commente (1)

Add a comment...

Post

Public status changes are not available for this request.

From: David Cohen
To: Barb Kraft

Cc: Paul Ivacko; greta anderson-finn; Barbara Scholz; Randy Velikan; Karla Velikan; John Finn; Brian L; Disch, Lisa; Eric

Arnold; Mary LeDuc; Paul Robinson; TOM KRAFT

Subject: Remarks at Council

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 7:59:18 PM

Attachments: DWC proposed Cascades remarks revised 2docx.pdf

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

A more complete version of the spoken text tonight. And this was abbreviated from a longer one.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2023, at 16:54, David Cohen < wrote:

Yes, yesterday afternoon. Also parked up Ottawa.

I saw people carrying their own inflatables down the dirt road as cars were coming up. Near the Livery, people with their own gear surrounded Gretchen's memorial bench—my dog could not access her usual swim spot—and free-riders far-outnumbered those waiting in line at the Livery by 5-fold I would estimate. And a steady stream of cars going down Longshore to the parking areas as well as coming back up.

And there were some who had not been ticketed though unlawfully parked. That was around 3pm.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2023, at 16:35, Barb Kraft < barb.mattimiro. wrote:

There was lots of traffic on our side on Sunday looking for parking. Both sides of Argo were full up to Pontiac Trail including all the way to the corner in front of our place - the wheelchair accessible corner was not accessible. Cars were also parked up the hill on Longshore for most of the first block. Not as many air compressors though!

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 4:27 PM Paul Ivacko < wrote: Thank You David!

For a short time on Sunday there were 3 City Parking staff patrolling the

area. I called the city to request enforcement when cars started parking on Wright, and one of the City staff showed up quickly. They weren't needed on Saturday because it rained.

It helped a lot, they towed one car and deterred **numerous** other cars from parking (while they were here). That's the kind of response from the City that could make a difference if it happened each weekend.

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 4:13 PM greta anderson-finn

wrote:

Excellent, David, you are a terrific ambassador, I will be there to support, hope to see some of you all there as well! greta

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 4:10 PM David Cohen

wrote:

I'll copy everyone on the text I present after I see if I can get it all said. It's pretty abbreviated but pushing the three minute limit. Old men are known for speaking slowly!

Notice that last week's news reported that Council approved a 1/2 million plus contract for a traffic and access study for downtown.

I think Cascades chaos merits comparable attention not as an alternative to doing things now but for working out a comprehensive program for a future Cascades destined to become even more full of people seeking water amenities in warm weather. See op-Ed piece in NYT opinion section yesterday.

Thanks all

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2023, at 15:25, Barb Kraft barb.mattimiro. wrote:

Thank you for those attending tonight's meeting. Neither Tom nor I can attend. I did try to send an ecomment but couldn't find that I could add to Public Commentary, only to existing agenda items.

We'll write a separate letter to council to echo what you say tonight.

Thank you, Barb

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 11:50 AM David Cohen wrote:

And, I hope I have prepared myself, as I am on the roster to speak with the City Council this evening. Meeting begins at 7pm.

Three minutes to discuss the growing chaos...politely.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 16, 2023, at 12:03, Paul Ivacko wrote:

Hi all,

Just an fyi, but I've just learned that the small parking lot on Longshore (next to the office building) is potentially going to be developed into a 15 unit condo building, so if/when that happens, more cascade parking will be eliminated.

On Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 11:29 AM greta anderson-finn

wrote: I'll be walking with David, let's go!

On Wed, Jul 12, 2023 at 11:03 AM
David Cohen < wrote:

I will try to sign up Monday early to speak. I would like to walk, leaving n'hood at 6:30pm for 7pm Council start.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 12, 2023, at 10:56, greta anderson-finn

wrote:

Monday evening, Barb, I'll be there, along with David and hopefully others! greta

On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 9:29 PM Barbara Scholz



When is the next city council meeting? Time/Place? Any one want to carpool?

On Jul 11, 2023, at 8:18 PM, Paul Ivacko

wrote:

I just want to add that the traffic situation could get much worse/impossible here soon regarding the upcoming cascade weekends, and we should prepare for it.

If that happens, I'll be calling the A2 police and asking for them to provide traffic control, I

hope many of us will do the same. If they can't provide traffic control, maybe some of us can take pictures showing how bad the traffic is.

On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM Randy Velikan

<

wrote:

For your entertainment, here's a video from last night of a confused driver drawing the only logical conclusion and going the wrong way down Moore. Yesterday, I came back from a lunch errand and was surprised

to see a line of cars in my lane as I turned left onto Moore from the bridge Eastbound! This continued through the night and likely recurred many times today. The planned two-way traffic on Moore needs to actually be executed with appropriate marking ASAP, before there is an accident. It's actually comical how many signs are set up on Southbound Wright to direct traffic toward Pontiac Trail. See

attached photos. Contrast this with Pontiac Trail South, where there are no instructions at all at the "dead end". Everyone has to drive back as far as Barton to find any signage directing them toward the proper detour. They might eventually do this after exploring the entire neighborhood and discovering they are well and truly prevented from going to Broadway/Plymouth.

On the positive side, I'm seeing a lot of drivers pull over

on Wright St. to use their cell phones. That's when you know it's really confusing!



On Tue, Jul 11, 2023, 7:08 PM

wrote: Adding Randy to this thread. Agreed that the handling of this project on top of the issues with the cascades is really disappointing

> frustrating. Between the two, on a nice day (during

and

the week

when the 'no parking' rules do not apply), Wright street is almost impassable because of all the cars parked on both sides and cars routed through due to the Pontiac Trail closure. Yesterday I saw a number of people going the wrong way down Moore and doing U-turns at the closure. People frustrated by the poor signage drive a little recklessly as well.

On Jul 11, 2023, at 6:57 PM, greta andersonfinn wrote: ... Also want to add that this construction project is an epic disaster, we are in full consensus with everyone's comments here. Greta and John On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 18:54 John F<u>inn</u> wrote:

Hey folks, for what it's worth, this is the postcard announcing the project from last November. Bottom left is the project manager contact info. On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 5:36 PM David Cohen wrote: Lisa, I know you are away. The City informed people in the neighborhood of the prospective

work but there was no recent mailing that related the closures nor do we have access to the name and contact information who is responsible for this work and who might be told that the plan in hand is unworkable. I feel despondent that the City's planning departments can be so

unresourceful

and incompetent. And I suppose unreachable. I expect more and better. Respectfully, David Sent from my iPhone On Jul 11, 2023, at 17:24, Barbara Scholz wrote: The signage for detour has been crazy making. I think that the traffic coming fromBarton to get to the

			hospital should be kept on Barton, and Pontiac Trail heading into town at Barton should say local traffic only. I saw so many cars getting "stuck" at Longshore and Pontiac Trail not know what to do. the city REALLY needs to figure this out before the weekend. PLEASE
			On

Jul 11, 2023, at 4:47 PM, Paul Ivacko wrote: Yes, I've also noticed a huge increase in traffic on Wright st. I expected that to happen, but I don't know how bad it'll get regarding cascade traffic, and I don't know about the Moore St. situation, sorry. I'd guess that

it'll be the worst traffic situation that any of us have ever seen, and there probably won't be any traffic control provided by the City.

On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 4:31 PM TOM KRAFT

wrote:

we have noticed a huge increase in Longshore traffic coming up from the woods. This

is not Argo/cascades traffic. Is is people encountering the closure with no direction as to where to go. When read the plan for the closure, Moore was to be 2 way temporarily. What happened to that? Traffic has nothing to do but use Longshore and Wright. Tom Kraft 313

	80	6 29
	at 4:	ue, ıl , 023
	lva 	M, aul acko rote:
		Hi All,
		Just an fyi, but it's possible that we're about to see the worst weekend parking situation we've ever experienced, so plan accordingly (as much as possible haha).
		Swift St. and
		some surrounding streets are

now closed for the sewer line project, and Swift St. was the main exitroad for tubers who couldn't find parking on Longshore. I can only imagine what will happen in the next few weeks/months regarding the traffic, but none of it is good. Maybe it won't be as bad as

I'm projecting, but I think it could be, and IMO it's better to know what to expect VS the unknown.

-

Greta

Anderson-

Finn

Grant-

writing

professional

Pronouns:

she/her/hers (What's

this?)

__

Greta Anderson-Finn

Grant-writing

professional

Pronouns:

she/her/hers (What's

this?)

Greta Anderson-Finn
Grant-writing professional
Pronouns: she/her/hers (What's this?)

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Greta Anderson-Finn Grant-writing professional

Pronouns: she/her/hers (What's this?)

Good evening. I am David William Cohen, Northside resident.

"Say hello to the Huron River Water Trail. . . .you are invited to keep the river healthy and beautiful. As people are getting outside in record numbers, the need to put Leave No Trace skills and ethics into action. . .is more imperative than ever." I quote from the permanent Leave No Trace plaque installed adjacent to the Argo Livery office.

Yesterday, the New York Times had an op-ed about the growing importance of water recreation in our time of global warming. It focused on Munich's Isar River as green infrastructure serving the needs and desires of thousands of urban residents.

Ann Arbor's Huron River could have been included. . .a site of exponential growth of human activity. The centerpiece being the Cascades.

I love the Cascades, the sound of falling water, the lovely walkway on the berm, the grasses on the banks. Sunday early, I watched expert kayakers practicing maneuvers. Recently, I encountered a young woman reading a book at the foot of the Cascades amid dozens of tubers.

The City should be proud of the Cascades amenity, in 2012 converting a murky head-race into a kayak and canoe playground as part of a costly project to save Argo Dam and Pond. I appreciate this.

But the Cascades plan failed in significant ways. Three cascades became nine. Canoeing was considered hazardous and canoe-ers were directed to an alternate portage. Not foreseen, tubing became #1. And ever-growing numbers were bringing their *own* inflatables, bypassing the Livery office. So many people from a wide region seeking a blast at a very small site, overwhelming the Cascades neighborhood with traffic, parking issues, litter, and drinking.

Early on, neighbors began speaking up. In 2016 police stepped up patrols to deal with the Cascades chaos. Parking restrictions were introduced. Council members seemed to be listening, even joining in with us to collect trash.

Nevertheless, traffic, parking, and behavior issues grew year by year. When people bring their own inflatables and coolers, they seek rock-star parking creating traffic and parking chaos. Alcohol is ever-present. Litter is everywhere. Clearly, the City's *intermittent* attention is inadequate, while the Livery and Parks' Leave No Trace campaign has totally failed. I ask Council to recognize that it owns this problem, the problem it has created.

Can the City bring a *comprehensive* approach to the protection of our neighborhood's security and well-being?

Would the City accept this chaos at other Parks facilities. . .golf courses, ice rinks, swimming pools, softball fields, special events venues?

Thank you.

From: Secretary NLG MI/Detroit

To: <u>City Council</u>

Subject: Copy of Public Commentary from the NLG **Date:** Monday, July 17, 2023 8:11:53 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from secretary@michigannlg.org. <u>Learn why this is</u> important

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council,

Below please find a written copy of my remarks during this evening's Public Commentary. I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on this important issue, and hope to see positive change in the future. I appreciate Councilwoman Eyers' remarks and will also follow up with ICPOC.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance in this or any other matter. I can be reached directly at 734-216-0073, or via this email address.

Yours in good trouble,

Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, Secretary She/Her National Lawyers Guild, Detroit & Michigan Chapter (313) 925-2626 michigannlg.org

Services of the NLG, Detroit & Michigan Chapter, are free to all. We rely on donations, dues, and fundraising to continue our work.

Please visit <u>michigannlg.org/donations</u> to help keep us in the streets and courtrooms, fighting for liberation.

Good evening. My name is Naomi Zikmund-Fisher. I am the Secretary of the National Lawyers Guild, Detroit and Michigan Chapter. I am here on behalf of the NLG and the lawyers and legal workers throughout the state who make up our membership to express our outrage concerning the conduct of the Ann Arbor Police Department. Last Wednesday, July 12, the volunteers of FedUp Ministries were, as they do each week, feeding our community from their free food truck at Liberty Plaza. Officers from the AAPD used this occasion to arrest a citizen for a minor crime that was alleged to have occurred in another place on another day.

Their protestations to the contrary notwithstanding, this is not the first time the AAPD has carried out arrests at locations set up to serve the hungry and unhoused. We

urge this Council to take concrete steps to ensure it is the last.

No one should ever have to choose between food and their freedom. Prosecuting petty theft cannot and must not be held as more important than the basic human right to sustenance. The good people at FedUp Ministries are an important part of the safety net that supports the most marginalized and underserved in our community. Using their work as bait for law enforcement undermines their ability to continue to serve our citizens and is, frankly, grotesque.

Where are our priorities? What do we value as a community? Are alleged violations of property rights truly more important than the human rights of our most vulnerable residents? It shows an utter lack of vision for this city to place law enforcement above all else. In what way was anyone truly "protected" and "served" by the Ann Arbor Police last Wednesday? In what way did any of us benefit by making it more dangerous to feed or be fed in Ann Arbor?

Finally, let me point out that if we, society at large, citizens of Washtenaw County, or specifically this council, were meeting our obligations to all of our citizens, FedUp ministries would not need to be feeding our neighbors at Liberty Plaza each Wednesday, no one would be resorting to petty theft to survive, and the Ann Arbor Police, regardless of their priorities, would have had no one to arrest last week. The police can do better. This council can do better, both in supervising the police and in serving everyone in our community. And our community can do better. On behalf of the members of the National Lawyers Guild, Detroit and Michigan chapter, we urge you to do so.

From: **David Cohen** To: Citycouncil@a2.gov

<u>Paul Ivacko; Paul Robinson; TOM KRAFT; Barb Kraft; Barbara Scholz; Karla Velikan; John Finn; Brian L; Eric Arnold; Mary LeDuc; Randy Velikan; Wall, Christopher; Disch, Lisa</u> Cc:

Subject: Thank you for listening on Cascades Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:18:26 PM

Attachments: DWC proposed Cascades remarks revised 2docx.pdf

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

Dear Council and Mayor,

Hard for an 80 year old to get through a three minute talk. A bit of the attached was left out.

I hope Council will accept this as a significant issue and bring expertise to solving the Cascades Chaos.

David William Cohen Northside

Sent from my iPhone

Good evening. I am David William Cohen, Northside resident.

"Say hello to the Huron River Water Trail. . . .you are invited to keep the river healthy and beautiful. As people are getting outside in record numbers, the need to put Leave No Trace skills and ethics into action. . .is more imperative than ever." I quote from the permanent Leave No Trace plaque installed adjacent to the Argo Livery office.

Yesterday, the New York Times had an op-ed about the growing importance of water recreation in our time of global warming. It focused on Munich's Isar River as green infrastructure serving the needs and desires of thousands of urban residents.

Ann Arbor's Huron River could have been included. . .a site of exponential growth of human activity. The centerpiece being the Cascades.

I love the Cascades, the sound of falling water, the lovely walkway on the berm, the grasses on the banks. Sunday early, I watched expert kayakers practicing maneuvers. Recently, I encountered a young woman reading a book at the foot of the Cascades amid dozens of tubers.

The City should be proud of the Cascades amenity, in 2012 converting a murky head-race into a kayak and canoe playground as part of a costly project to save Argo Dam and Pond. I appreciate this.

But the Cascades plan failed in significant ways. Three cascades became nine. Canoeing was considered hazardous and canoe-ers were directed to an alternate portage. Not foreseen, tubing became #1. And ever-growing numbers were bringing their *own* inflatables, bypassing the Livery office. So many people from a wide region seeking a blast at a very small site, overwhelming the Cascades neighborhood with traffic, parking issues, litter, and drinking.

Early on, neighbors began speaking up. In 2016 police stepped up patrols to deal with the Cascades chaos. Parking restrictions were introduced. Council members seemed to be listening, even joining in with us to collect trash.

Nevertheless, traffic, parking, and behavior issues grew year by year. When people bring their own inflatables and coolers, they seek rock-star parking creating traffic and parking chaos. Alcohol is ever-present. Litter is everywhere. Clearly, the City's *intermittent* attention is inadequate, while the Livery and Parks' Leave No Trace campaign has totally failed. I ask Council to recognize that it owns this problem, the problem it has created.

Can the City bring a *comprehensive* approach to the protection of our neighborhood's security and well-being?

Would the City accept this chaos at other Parks facilities. . .golf courses, ice rinks, swimming pools, softball fields, special events venues?

Thank you.

From: TOM KRAFT

To: Barb Kraft

Cc: Paul Ivacko; greta anderson-finn; Barbara Scholz; Randy Velikan; Karla Velikan; John Finn; Brian L; Disch, Lisa; Eric Arnold;

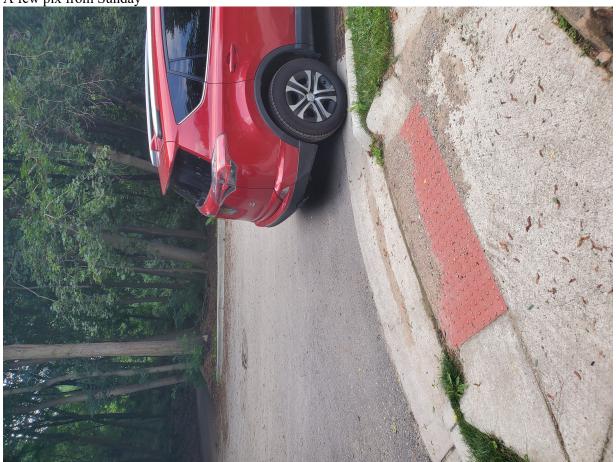
Mary LeDuc, Paul Robinson

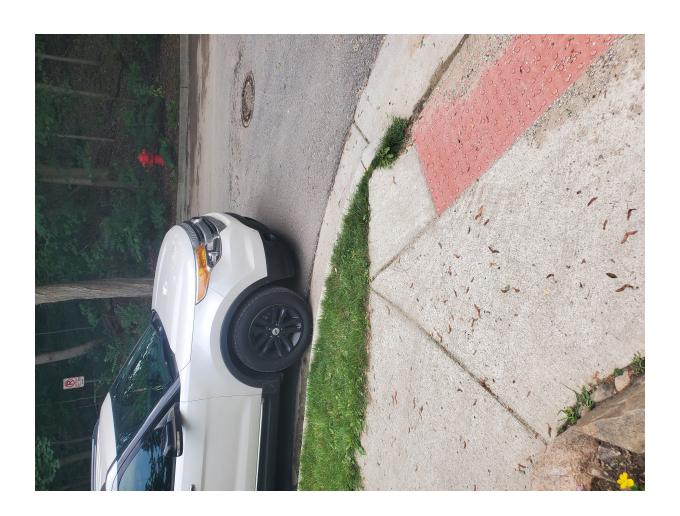
Subject: Re: Remarks at Council

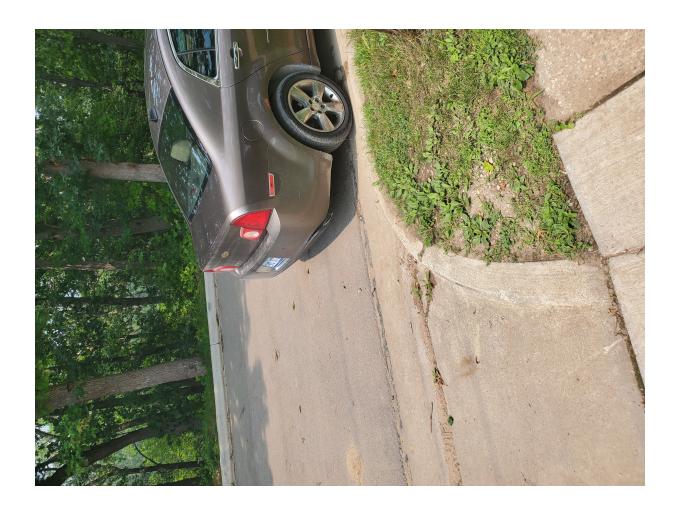
Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:31:24 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

A few pix from Sunday







Tom Kraft RowKraft Products LLC Rowing Solutions 313 806 4729

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 7:59 PM, David Cohen wrote:

A more complete version of the spoken text tonight. And this was abbreviated from a longer one.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2023, at 16:54, David Cohen < wrote:

Yes, yesterday afternoon. Also parked up Ottawa.

I saw people carrying their own inflatables down the dirt road as cars were coming up. Near the Livery, people with their own gear surrounded Gretchen's memorial bench—my dog could not access her usual swim spot—and free-riders far-outnumbered those waiting in line at the Livery by 5-fold I would estimate. And a steady stream of cars going down Longshore to the parking areas as well as coming back up.

And there were some who had not been ticketed though unlawfully parked. That was around 3pm.

David

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 17, 2023, at 16:35, Barb Kraft < barb.mattimiro. wrote:

There was lots of traffic on our side on Sunday looking for parking. Both sides of Argo were full up to Pontiac Trail including all the way to the corner in front of our place - the wheelchair accessible corner was not accessible. Cars were also parked up the hill on Longshore for most of the first block. Not as many air compressors though!

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 4:27 PM Paul Ivacko < wrote: Thank You David!

For a short time on Sunday there were 3 City Parking staff patrolling the area. I called the city to request enforcement when cars started parking on Wright, and one of the City staff showed up quickly. They weren't needed on Saturday because it rained.

It helped a lot, they towed one car and deterred **numerous** other cars from parking (while they were here). That's the kind of response from the City that could make a difference if it happened each weekend.

On Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 4:13 PM greta anderson-finn

wrote:

Excellent, David, you are a terrific ambassador, I will be there to support, hope to see some of you all there as well! greta

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I'll copy everyone on the text I present after I see if I can get it all said. It's pretty abbreviated but pushing the three minute limit. Old men are known for speaking slowly!

Notice that last week's news reported that Council approved a 1/2 million plus contract for a traffic and access study for downtown.

I think Cascades chaos merits comparable attention not as an alternative to doing things now but for working out a comprehensive program for a future Cascades destined to become even more full of people seeking water amenities in warm weather. See op-Ed piece in NYT opinion section yesterday.

Thanks all

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We'll write a separate letter to council to echo what you say tonight.

Thank you, Barb

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Three minutes to discuss the growing chaos...politely.

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Hi all,

Just an fyi, but I've just learned that the small parking lot on Longshore (next to the office building) is potentially going to be developed into a 15 unit condo building, so if/when that happens, more

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I'll be walking with David, let's go!

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I will try to sign up Monday early to speak. I would like to walk, leaving n'hood at 6:30pm for 7pm Council start.

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When is the next city council meeting? Time/Place? Any one want to carpool?

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If that happens, I'll be calling the A2 police and asking for them to provide traffic control, I hope many of us will do the same. If they can't provide traffic control, maybe some of us can take pictures showing how bad the traffic is.

On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 7:30 PM Randy Velikan

wrote:

For your entertainment, here's a video

from last night of a confused driver drawing the only logical conclusion and going the wrong way down Moore. Yesterday, I came back from a lunch errand and was surprised to see a line of cars in my lane as I turned left onto Moore from the bridge Eastbound! This continued through the night and likely recurred many times today. The planned two-way traffic on Moore needs to actually be executed with appropriate marking

ASAP, before there is an accident. It's actually comical how many signs are set up on Southbound Wright to direct traffic toward Pontiac Trail. See attached photos. Contrast this with Pontiac Trail South, where there are no instructions at all at the "dead end". Everyone has to drive back as far as Barton to find any signage directing them toward the proper detour. They might eventually do this after exploring the entire

neighborhood and discovering they are well and truly prevented from going to Broadway/Plymouth.

On the positive side, I'm seeing a lot of drivers pull over on Wright St. to use their cell phones. That's when you know it's really confusing!



On Tue, Jul 11, 2023, 7:08 PM

wrote:

Adding Randy to this thread. Agreed that the handling of this project on top of the

issues with the cascades is really disappointing and frustrating. Between the two, on a nice day (during the week when the 'no parking' rules do not apply), Wright street is almost impassable because of all the cars parked on both sides and cars routed through due to the Pontiac Trail closure. Yesterday I saw a number of people going the wrong way down Moore

and doing U-turns at the closure. People frustrated by the poor signage drive a little recklessly as well. On Jul 11, 2023, at 6:57 PM, greta andersonfinn wrote: Also want to add that this construction project is an epic disaster, we are in full consensus with everyone's comments here.

Greta

and John On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 18:54 John Finn wrote: Hey folks, for what it's worth, this is the postcard announcing the project from last November. Bottom left is the project manager contact info. On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 5:36 PM David Cohen wrote: Lisa, I know you

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despondent that the City's planning departments can be so unresourceful and incompetent. And Ι suppose unreachable. expect more and better. Respectfully, David Sent from my iPhone On Jul 11, 2023, at 17:24, Barbara Scholz wrote: The signage for detour has been crazy making. I think that

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	On Jul 11, 2023, at 4:47 PM, Paul Ivacko wrote: Yes, I've also noticed
	a huge increase in traffic on Wright st. I expected that to happen, but I
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sorry. I'd guess that it'll be the worst traffic situation that any of us have ever seen, and there probably won't be any traffic control provided by the City. On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 4:31 PM TOM **KRAFT** wrote: We have noticed a huge increase in Longshore traffic coming up from

the woods. This is not Argo/cascades traffic. Is is people encountering the closure with no direction as to where to go. When i read the plan for the closure, Moore was to be 2 way temporarily. What happened to that? Traffic has nothing to do but use Longshore and Wright. Tom Kraft

		313 806 4729
		On Tue, Jul 11, 2023 at 4:01 PM, Paul Ivacko
		wrote: Hi All,
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From: TOM KRAFT

To: greta anderson-finn

Cc: David Cohen; Barb Kraft; Barbara Scholz; Randy Velikan; John Finn; Brian L; Disch, Lisa; Eric

Arnold; Mary LeDuc; Paul Robinson

Subject: Re: Prepare Yourself

Date: Monday, July 17, 2023 8:32:35 PM

This message was sent from outside of the City of Ann Arbor. Please do not click links, open attachments, or follow directions unless you recognize the source of this email and know the content is safe.

The parking enforcement never made it up to Argo

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