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Outlook

City Council Comment received from Jennifer Newlands

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Wed 9/25/2024 12:35 PM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Contact Info:

Name:

Jennifer Newlands

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Unsure/Other

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A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: .

Section:

General Opening Session Comment (unassociated to an agenda item)

Item:

Na.

Position:

No position stated - Concerned or Neutral

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I was a professor for 20 years and I have a news story about the Reno police, ambulance, fire department and community following me around sexually harassing me and stalking me. They are delusional sex predators that think we are in a life long journey together. Are you interested to hear about the sex trafficking happening in Reno? They claim they exposed me but in Florida with your Mormon community was following me like lunatics and my Uber app was suddenly deleted when people hacked and impersonated me constantly. Crazy people were impersonating me in hotels. The hotel staff allowed people in my room when I left to film without permission. These are people from your department and community that are rapists and sex predators chasing me around like lunatics. I

want them out of my life. I want you all out of my life. They are sex traffickers and they are the police and firefighters that are harassing me thinking they are God and own my life. I want your cops firefighters and community out of my Life today. They want to arrest me on false charges with some conspiracy. They have been watching me without permission at Traverse Townhomes in Lehi and the bungalows in Reno. They filmed me in my bathroom and bed without permission daily. The people in the leasing office are sex predators. They think they are exposing me and blackmailing me so they can film me without permission. This is pure evil and sick. Please reach out today with how you will handle your sick officers, sick community and their actions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.

Yes

By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.

Yes

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No



RENO CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC COMMENT CARD

Thank you for participating. We know your time is valuable and we look forward to hearing your comments, ideas and questions. The Mayor and City Council request that all comments are expressed in a courteous manner. Public comment is limited to three minutes each. Comments should be addressed to the council as a whole, not an individual member.

NAME: Damien Cole
ADDRESS: 174 S. Virginia St
CONTACT PHONE: 775-301-0774
E-MAIL: _____

If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:

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☐ OTHER _____

DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM _____

☐ IN FAVOR ☐ IN OPPOSITION ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: _____

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION



Madam Mayor, city council. My name is Damien Cole for the record. I am a 17 year resident of downtown Reno. I would like the written and verbal comment I am making today to be entered into the public record.

I would like to express my great joy that the City Council unanimously voted to pass the Truckee River Vision Plan. Councilwoman Duerr, thank you for making the motion, and thank you, Councilwoman Taylor, for seconding it. I believe this plan is the best foot forward in a path that will ultimately enrich the city by revitalizing what I feel is truly the city's core asset, the River.

Before the railroad, before the casinos, there was the river, and building a bridge across it, creating Fuller's Crossing, is how this city began. Being a resident of the Riverside Artist Lofts, I hold the immense privilege of living precisely on the site where this happened.

Now that the plan has been adopted-- now that the city has voted toward creating a special parks district overlay, and moving to adopt a plan that chooses to reintroduce the lost and forgotten policy choice of having residential, commercial and retail frontage FACE the river, rather than turning their backs on the river, I feel it is time to begin an important conversation about the number one sociopolitical culprit against making this plan become a reality: NIMBYism.

NIMBY--- acronym for "Not In My Backyard,"--- a term originally coined by proponents of the Nuclear industry, lamenting the country's reluctance of building new Nuclear Power Plants near their homes in the 1980s, has since been turned on its head in the last 40 years, to become the rallying cry against nefarious policies prohibiting positive changes in society, such as affordable housing, racial equality, gentrification, and now most recently, zoning policies that stand in the way of filling the missing middle housing gap, and building equitable infrastructure for low-cost transportation alternatives to automobiles.

In context of the river, NIMBYism has become prominent. Originally, Truckee River Plan, to create what was then commonly called a "Greenbelt," was achieved through acts of municipal, county and State legislation.

The Truckee River Greenbelt was not only adopted and executed by these entities, but also adopted ~~as~~ guidelines for the Reno Redevelopment Agency's neighborhood guidelines. In those guidelines, it stated that the first floor of every commercial frontage within the Redevelopment zoning district, be open to the public, free of fencing and opaque closed-off walls. It was decided, wisely in my estimation, that the key component of creating an open, prosperous and vibrant community, was to do precisely this, and all lands being redeveloped were to adopt and build, ~~by and by~~ by this standard.

During this plan's tenure, the one building that was given special exception not to do so was the AT&T Central Office Building. AT&T was concerned for the security of its telecommunications equipment, so a compromised had been reached to create a publicly accessible walkway leading to Lake Street, featuring murals and an outdoor gallery of art, hosted by the Sierra Arts Foundation--- the same foundation that established the very building I live in today, the Riverside Artist Lofts.

Today that building is fenced off, and its access is conditional based on how the land owner feels fit, by securing a 3-foot wide gate on either side. The City of Reno allowed them to do this. Arguably, this decision has created an isolated and potentially dangerous pocket in that walkway which further deters public access, and arguably, deters the riverwalk from retaining its open, friendly and vibrant atmosphere.

The AT&T building is not alone. I am sorry to say that the Reno Redevelopment Agency, and Reno Public Works itself, is a culprit in this, for in 2015 the Agency decided to allow Harrah's Auto Foundation to erect a 6-foot tall wrought iron fence along the Auto Museum's river-facing frontage, and a building permit was issued by Public Works.

The river frontage was designed to be the building's front entrance. That's why the path, and the building, was designed the way it was. The erection of the fence, however, cut off all access to the Auto Museum's front door, and instead made its parking lot facing door the one and only direct access to the building by the public, also fenced off from the street.

A kneejerk reaction to our sudden and horrible housing crisis created a problem, and went directly against decades of city policy and building guidelines.

Now you adopted a plan that is in direct opposition to the fence which you decided to be erected. What will the city do to recompense this?

This fence went up at a time when a purchase agreement had been reached between the city and Harrah's. Escrow was open, and Harrah's, a tenant of a Redevelopment Agency, planned improvements to the building.

Paradoxically, at the time this fence was erected, the purchase agreement required Harrah's to come up with an improvement and maintenance plan for the bicycle path, otherwise known as the Truckee River Path. The result of was the establishment of a 20' foot easement, which the fence encroached on by several feet. The easement is defined in great detail in the parcel's deed. Additionally, the deed state that all costs associated with building and construction on the path is the responsibility of Harrah's Auto

Foundation, not the city. This deed was signed and agreed by both parties— the president of the Redevelopment agency, Hillary Schieve, and Harrah's Auto Foundation.

In other words, literally while the ink was still wet, both parties turned their back on their aforementioned agreement, erected a fence, blocked off the river, blocked off the front entrance to the building, and has never looked back. The city is now planning to bypass the encroached property by creating a very expensive and worthwhile Cantilevered Path, possibly on land it does not even control. I highly recommend to have that easement surveyed to pinpoint its precise coordinates.

But wait, the responsibility of all costs are Harrah's for that path.

So why is it that the City of Reno, not Harrah's, has paid for the environmental permitting and study of a Cantilevered Path? This is Reno recently quoted a city official who stated the current cost for this cantilevered path has reached over \$200,000 dollars of federally granted Arpa funds.

Why is the city stating it will need to seek additional funding in the form of grants, to build this cantilevered path, when it should be Harrah's, who encroached upon the city's easement, who agreed to be responsible for all costs associated with improvements to this path?

Why spend hundreds of thousands, possibly a million dollars of taxpayer funds, to build a cantilevered path to fix a problem that simply moving a fence back by 5 feet would solve? Something, I should mention, would also be Harrah's responsibility?

It would seem that, immediately upon reaching the 2016 agreement and deed, caufifying this easement, both parties reneged and or forgot about their corresponding responsibilities, and have been acting in tandem against the idea of keeping the river open, accessible and vibrant, in the manner which you all unanimously voted to do.

If the city is going to adopt a plan as wonderful and inspiring as the Truckee River Vision Plan, the city must first examine its own current policies and way of thinking, otherwise like has been stated, it will become nothing more than another plan, sitting on the shelf on some office, with a new generation 30 years from now asking what to do with our river problem.

Thank you.



Sincerely,
Damien Cole

RENO CITY COUNCIL

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If you are representing someone, other than yourself, please indicate whom:
Northern Nevada International Center

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DO YOU WISH TO SPEAK? YES ☒ NO ☐

AGENDA ITEM J.1

☐ IN FAVOR ☐ IN OPPOSITION ☐ NO POSITION STATED - CONCERNED

COMMENTS: Just introducing the
Openworld Vietnam delegation,
supported by the
Congressional Office of International
Leadership

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