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City Council Comment received from Samuel Solace

From Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Date Mon 12/2/2024 6:16 PM

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

Contact Info:

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Samuel Solace

Commenting on behalf of:

Ward #:

Ward 5

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A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-12-04.

Section:

D Items - Department Items

Item:

D.4. D.5, additional.

Position:

In Favor

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I started driving rideshare as an evening side gig over a year ago. After living in Reno for 32 years, I never felt I could be surprised by anything until driving around the region in the evenings. During this time, I have been subpoenaed twice for witnessing DWI accidents with dashcam video and prevented an elderly woman from losing \$5,000.00 as a victim of the "fake family member" scam. I've had to take evasive measures to avoid enough traffic and pedestrian accidents that I've lost count. These are just a few examples. There are many more! Law enforcement concerns that I have noticed in the region include: - Law enforcement ignoring certain activities and individuals. Three to five units or more will show up at a traffic stop and linger around, and there could be a good reason. However, vehicles with

headlamps off, dirtbikes, and offroad-only vehicles regularly driving in groups downtown, zipping in and out of traffic, and vehicles with off-highway lighting (partly a state-level NRS issue), such as red headlights, are ignored. A nighttime vehicle without headlamps could be a simple operator mistake or a potential DWI. Do we wait until the latter is involved in an incident? - Pedestrian traffic regularly ignores the right-of-way and steps in front of traffic. Beyond the actual incidents in the database, there are numerous close calls. I have witnessed officers see these actions and ignore them. - I have yet to see a Bird scooter rider issued a citation for operating the wrong way on one-way streets or disobeying various traffic regulations and controls. Bird scooters are great, but someone will get killed if the operators are allowed to ignore common traffic laws. - I have yet to see speed enforcement at any special speed zone (4th street between Vally Rd and Virginia St., Sierra St., and others). It is common to see 35-40+ MPH in these areas. - Loud vehicles (exhaust, music) not participating in special events or operating in residential areas annoy many citizens. I saw this as D.5 in the agenda and agree in part. - Diesel trucks "rolling coal" on pedestrians and others. This is another issue where the NRS is lacking, but Reno could address it independently. I have videos of trucks intentionally dumping large amounts of black/gray exhaust smoke on special event workers and others. Yes, these have been reported to the Smog Spotter program. - Countless vehicles running red lights and stop signs. - School zone speeds around the city seem unmonitored this school year. - I often see more REMSA units around town than police cruisers (marked or unmarked). I have spoken with a few officers, asking if the department is short-handed, and was told no. I feel that the Reno Police Department IS short-staffed if the visible presence of officers in the downtown and high-response zones is limited. Officer safety is paramount. Public safety is equally important, and I believe a more significant "visual" presence of officers in high-demand areas could reduce many problems. Outside of special events, I could see foot patrols or a few random units monitoring activities in parts of downtown to address pedestrian, drug, and other issues. This also leads to positive engagement with the public. I also understand that the department must prioritize responses based on available resources and the level of threat or incident. Evaluating some of these responses and the time and number of officers involved could present areas for improvement. I agree that the City of Reno and Reno PD must address the need for more officers, improved shift scheduling, and increased public engagement. Best Regards,

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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Yes