

[illegible]

City Council Comment received from Denise Myer

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Wed 8/14/2024 9:03 AM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Denise Myer

Commenting on behalf of:

No

Ward #:

Ward 3

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myer4nv@gmail.com

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7757421020

Address:

900 Belgrave Ave

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-08-14.

Section:

General Opening Session Comment (unassociated to an agenda item)

Item:

General opening comment.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I just read the RenoTahoe online newsletter promoting local bars this morning. These local bars are a big part of the charm of Reno, and are a backbone of our local economy, providing a place to have a casual drink, hang out to meet friends, old and new, watch a game, or play a game of pool. And they also provide some great music for our many talented local musicians, of which I am married to one and the stepmother of a local celebrity musician. In my own neighborhood there are several of these bars, many that have been here for more than 40 years. These charming neighborhood bars are places locals love to take their out of town visitors to experience Reno outside of the casinos. This is the reason they are being promoted to tourists. And now we want to regulate this part of the community to the point they will go out of business? As a long time Reno resident, I grew up with these bars and want to continue to be able to go out and enjoy myself without having to go to a casino. I strongly urge you to support our local small businesses and rescind these regulations. Thank you, Denise Myer Reno City Council Candidate

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

City Council Comment received from Doug Brown

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Wed 8/14/2024 10:53 AM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Doug Brown

Commenting on behalf of:

Myself

Ward #:

Ward 5

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7847507149

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A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-08-14.

Section:

E Items - Ordinance Introductions

Item:

E1.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

I would like to thank those of you who actually responded to my inquiries regarding this ordinance, especially Mayor Schieve and Council member Reese. Please consider removing the word "enter" from the ordinance. I am a life long resident of Reno and regular user of the Truckee. This ordinance will block off large swaths of the river that have been accessible for generations. Essentially there will be no way to access the river from west 4th street if this ordinance is passed. It will also be difficult to determine if you are trespassing when you are near the county/city border. While I am supportive of the intent behind the ordinance, I believe it can be drafted in such a way that allows public access but still has the intended effect. The river is one of our most precious resources. Please don't limit access by enacting this ordinance as currently proposed. Thank you for your consideration. Doug Brown

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

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No

8/14 Council Meeting // Item E.1

Ilya Arbatman <ilya.arbatman@gmail.com>

Tue 8/13/2024 10:51 PM

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

Hi -

I'd like to submit comment in opposition to item E.1, the proposed railroad ordinance.

The ordinance raises many questions, legal and otherwise. As most people intuit and as the [NDOT website](#) clearly states, "Railroads are private property. Trespassers are those who are on railroad property without permission. Trespassing along railroad rights-of-way is the leading cause of rail-related fatalities in America."

As private property, railroads fall under trespassing guidelines set out in [NRS 207.200](#). Why do we need a special ordinance that creates a 100-foot no-go zone around the railroad tracks? And why is it being proposed now?

Unless train technology has changed to somehow make these areas more dangerous (it hasn't), we can assume that people illegally trespassing on the tracks have always been a safety concern and that they have been warned, cited or arrested as such.

Those of us who fondly remember Record Street Bibò -- [before it was demolished](#) -- might also remember taking the shortcut across Interstate 80 on the railroad bridge. It was illegal to walk that way and, if you got caught, you got in trouble. No special ordinance was needed then to address the caffeinated and impatient pedestrians who must have been a scourge on law enforcement in the area.

Can the text of the newly proposed ordinance enlighten us on the current situation? Unfortunately, not really. In fact, the ordinance as it is written is so vague as to raise a few lawyerly eyebrows -- if anyone is even paying attention, that is.

It begins with a statement of the obvious: "It is illegal to access private railroad property anywhere other than a designated pedestrian or roadway crossing." It goes on to assert that "Trespassers are most often pedestrians who walk across or along railroad tracks as a shortcut to another destination," mentions taking photographs as a potential (and serious!) hazard, and refers to "ballast damage" and potential derailment.

Has the number of shortcut-desperate travelers become such a nuisance that we need a new ordinance just for them and their deadly cameras set on damaging and derailling our precious locomotives?

Bear with me here as things get even murkier. The meat of the text follows: "Any person who enters or remains within 100 feet of a railroad track without the permission of the owner of the land, the owner's agent, or the person in lawful possession and whose entry, presence, or conduct upon the property interferes with, interrupts, hinders, or which, if allowed to continue would interfere with, interrupt, or hinder the safe and efficient operation of any locomotive, railway car or train is guilty of a misdemeanor."

Within a hundred feet of a railroad track? Measured in every direction? Can we see a map of how much now de facto private property the City is claiming jurisdiction over? Doesn't this seem a bit excessive for joggers and photographers? Have the train nerds become too unruly for existing laws to contain?

Maybe the [accompanying staff report](#) can help us understand. The report specifies that, "The ordinance also establishes the 100 feet measurement from the most outer point of the railroad track extending out in each direction." Once again, that's an enormous swath of land.

The report does not offer any more background or explanation beyond the text of the ordinance. On top of that, there are some notable and confusing discrepancies between staff's original introduction of the ordinance on July 24 of this year – which focused on vandalism, fires and the obstruction of stormwater conveyances – and the ordinance itself, which makes no mention whatsoever of any these hazards and refers instead to short-crazed pedestrians, joggers, tourists, bicycles and alleged recreational off-highway vehicle operators. I'll pose the question again: specifically what concerns, behaviors and people is this ordinance actually targeting?

Please. I know we are all desperate for some honesty and directness here. In my humble view, the Reno City Council and staff don't want people to know they are introducing yet another anti-homeless law, so they are couching it in vague references to erosion, "taking photographs" and our "unique landscape."

The demographic in question here is obvious, however: people who are living by the tracks because they have nowhere else to go. This has been a persistent issue for the city, and the roundabout way to address it is with a sneaky, new law.

As anyone who frequents the neighborhoods near the railroad tracks downtown knows, over the past several years encampments have been bounced around this area constantly, [swept](#) and [swept again](#), from the railroad tracks off Suto to the railroad tracks by the former Community Assistance Center, to the railroad tracks on the other side of Record Street, to beneath the Wells underpass, and to and from many other spots in this general vicinity.

In fact, there was a [sweep happening at the same time as the July 31 Council Meeting](#), during which the railroad ordinance was agendized for a first reading. Despite some coverage here and there, much of this activity goes unnoticed and unreported. This cycle has been repeating [at god-knows-what cost to the city](#), and other agencies, with absolutely no end in sight, really, other than ceaseless harassment of our unhoused population.

In the past few years, we have seen a slew of targeted anti-homeless ordinances make their way through our local jurisdictions. Most recently, of course, we saw the controversial passing of ordinances that make camping in public spaces and sleeping in your car criminal misdemeanors (passed [Sparks](#) and [County](#) earlier this year). Reno already has a [similar ordinance on the books](#), outlawing using "real property of the City for living accommodation."

The camping ordinances and a whip ban all drew significant [public outcry](#), from [members of the public](#), [advocates for the unhoused](#), the [ACLU](#) and [other groups](#). That was partially due to the fact that there was no mistaking what these new rules were all about: criminalizing homelessness.

The whip ordinance took about two months to pass (introduced in [August of 2021](#) and passed in [October of 2021](#)), Sparks' camping ban was first introduced in [August of 2023](#) and was finally revised and passed in [February of 2024](#), and the County's camping ban was [discussed at length](#) between [early February](#) and [late March of 2024](#).

It appears as if the City of Reno has learned a PR lesson: if you want to pass an ordinance that targets poor people and thus is bound to meet resistance from advocates as well as from the general public, do it quickly and quietly.

I sit on the Ward 3 Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB). At our [August 6 meeting](#), I spoke with [Captain Larson and Assistant Chief Jacobson](#) of RPD about the proposed ordinance.

Tellingly, they thought it had already been passed. This illustrates, I think, the hollowness of the process and the City's indifference to community input. Once an ordinance like this makes it onto an agenda – which is usually the first that the public hears of it – it's as good as enacted. Council is just [going through the motions](#) (pun intended) of gathering feedback and asking us what we think.

I asked the officers if they were hopeful about this ordinance, and they responded by saying they were always hopeful, and that the ordinance would give them another “tool” they could use to “help the folks that are down there.”

This reminded me of something [Commissioner Clara Andriola said earlier this year](#) in reference to the camping ban, something I have heard many times during conversations around this issue: “It's not about criminalization, it's about providing law enforcement the tools necessary to help direct folks to the resources that are needed.”

A tool. There is a kind of bitter irony to this metaphor. When I think of tools, I think of hammers and nails, things that you use to make houses. If we are not able to provide housing, we cannot break the cycle of homelessness. Our reference to anti-homeless ordinances – laws that punish you for having nowhere to go – as tools makes me think our social conscience is trying to tell us something. What point is a tool if we are not building anything with it?

Finally, if I am homeless, it's illegal for me to sleep in the park. It's illegal for me to sleep in the street or on the sidewalk. It's illegal for me to sleep by the river. It's illegal for me to sleep in my car. Now it will be illegal for me to sleep within 100 feet of the railroad tracks.

But I have to sleep. I have to rest. If doing that anywhere but at the Cares Campus is illegal, what is the difference between the Cares Campus and jail? I have to sleep. Can someone lay out for me how I can exist as an unhoused person in Washoe County without breaking the law?

Ilya Arbatman
Ward 3

B1. Discussion and adoption of the Redevelopment Agency... (Redevelopment Agency Board)

Manny Becerra <mannyb@pm.me>

Tue 8/13/2024 10:38 PM

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

 1 attachments (128 KB)

Public Letter Redevelopment Agency B.1 - Discussion and adoption of the Redevelopment Agency Status Report - 2024-08-13
BecerraM.pdf,

Dear Honorable Members of the Reno City Council,

I hope this message finds you all well. I am writing to share a letter outlining several concerns and questions regarding the proposed relaunch of the Reno Redevelopment Agency as proposed for consideration for the set meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. The letter is attached for your reference and for the public record. For your convenience, I have also included the content inline below.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

With purpose,

Manny

—

Manny Becerra

Lifelong Reno Resident

Reno Planning Commissioner, Ward 3

=== Copy of Letter

Dear Honorable Members of the Reno City Council,

I write to seek clarification on several aspects of the proposed relaunch of the Reno Redevelopment Agency. My intention is not to presume issues exist, but rather to ensure that if these concerns are non-issues, they are addressed transparently on the record. Conversely, if they do warrant attention, I trust that they will be considered and addressed on the record in the best interest of our community.

Public Process and Engagement: It appears that the development of new Redevelopment Agency policies may have occurred without extensive public or stakeholder engagement. Could the Council clarify how public engagement and input have been, and will continue to be, integrated into these decisions and policy development?

Identification of Redevelopment Agency Staff: The proposal does not clearly identify who will be managing the redevelopment process. Could the Council provide more transparency on the staff involved, their roles and other insightful information?

Reinstatement of the Redevelopment Agency Advisory Board (RAAB): The absence of the RAAB raises questions about citizen participation in redevelopment planning. Could the Council confirm

whether the reinstatement of the RAAB or a similar advisory body is under consideration?

New Planning Districts: The creation of new planning districts within Redevelopment Area (RDA) #2 appears to have been made without broad community input. How does the Council plan to ensure that these districts accurately reflect the needs and desires of residents?

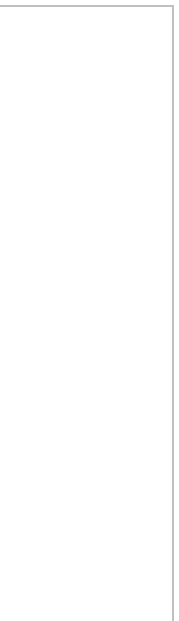
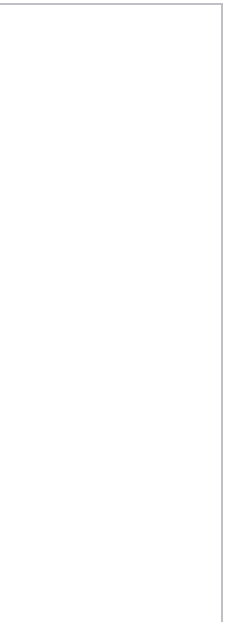
Complexity of Proposed Participation Programs: The proposed Participation Programs are complex and have far-reaching implications. Will the Council commit to a detailed public review of these programs to confirm their alignment with community interests?

I hope these questions and concerns can be addressed thoroughly, either by confirming that these are non-issues or by taking appropriate actions to rectify any gaps. The transparency and inclusiveness of this process are crucial for the long-term success and trust in our city's redevelopment efforts.

While I submit these questions as a concerned public member, it is challenging to disconnect them from my role as a Reno Planning Commissioner. The decisions made by the Redevelopment Agency Board will undoubtedly affect our work and that of other teams across the City of Reno, including regional agencies, as our efforts are deeply interconnected.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I look forward to your public response and to the continued growth and prosperity of our city in an open and collaborative manner.

PS: On a related note, the supplemental material under B.1 titled "Participation Programs and Processes" references the Washoe County website, <https://gis.washoecounty.us>. However, this website only lists a single link titled "Public Files," which leads to a page about Firearm Discharge Restrictions. This does not seem relevant to the supplemental material for agenda item B.1 (see graphics below). I'm passing this along in case it's helpful in providing the correct information.



City Council Comment received from Tom Heck for City Council Ward 6 Tom Heck for City Council Ward 6

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Wed 8/14/2024 7:58 AM

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

Contact Info:

Name:

Tom Heck for City Council Ward 6 Tom Heck for City Council Ward 6

Commenting on behalf of:

Tom Heck for City Council Ward 6

Ward #:

Unsure/Other

Email Address:

Tom@ElectHeck.com

Phone Number:

775 848-4325

Address:

P.O. Box 19222, Reno, NV 89511

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-08-14.

Section:

General Closing Session Comment (unassociated to an agenda item)

Item:

Council approved an update to the city code for business that turned into a rewrite -- oppose to this effort!.

Position:

In opposition

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, enter comments below:

The update council approved for the city code affecting small businesses especially bars has turned into an expansion and rewrite of the code dramatically impacting small businesses especially bars. It will create big brother over site to find a problem that may not exist. It is extremely burdensome and MUST BE RESINDED!!

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

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Yes

8/14/24, 9:43 AM

Mail - Public Comment - CC - Outlook

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No