

I would like to add more history to Councilor Pierce's report and my perspective. When my family found this house in 1996, it was advertised as "Huckfinn's Hideway". The Dogwood street dead ended in both directions. The only traffic was to the specific homes. Visitors to the boat ramp may have been 3 a week, if that. We sat in our yards for quiet visits with friends in our tight knit neighborhood. Our children grew up riding their bikes in the road and no one worried.

Then the ramp became known. We began talking first with Mayor Hafez Daraee and then Mayor Heather Kibby. We set out to discourage advertising and large groups, not all visitors or to close the ramp. Our homes are an extension of who we are, our neighborhood our choice for raising our family. It's a place of safety and a soft place to land at the end of a workday and comfort in facing the ups and downs of life. A place to invite friends for a summer barbecue. The arrival of so many people felt like our homes were being intruded on, a sense of grief ensued for the loss. Each year there is more traffic making things worse and worse. This year it was an exponential increase, possibly due to the pandemic.

I have been confused over the years at the lack of compassion and respect for our neighborhood. For the past 26 years we have been hosts to the boat ramp traffic and in that role have helped carry kayaks, helped unload stand up paddle boards, and cleaned up garbage including unsafe fish hooks. Yet when an issue arises we are not contacted to clarify and are automatically deemed at fault. I dare say, if anyone else had a boat ramp in the midst of their homes there would, undoubtedly, be issues associated with it.

This whole city is zoned residential. The city is obligated through already written goals to maintain the livability and safety for all citizens in the City of Rivergrove. Likewise, the city has an obligation to work with citizens, with open-minds, to create problem solving opportunities with negotiating and compromise. Councilor Pierce stated he had found other public boat ramps situated between homes. I would like to know where they are located and what solutions they have found to address traffic and usage.

The neighborhood will continue to approach the city to protect our neighborhood the same as those enjoying their quiet streets. We offer

what we feel might help us, but problem solving needs an open-minded discussion. As I said, each year is worse and creates new challenges. The city council and residents need to understand with compassion and respect the unique challenges the boat ramp creates, and work with our neighborhood to make a truly special little city for all residents.

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