| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Amanda Schaper |
| **To:** | CACH; City Council |
| **Subject:** | Local Homeowner Passionately Opposed to a Moratorium on Towing Vehicles |
| **Date:** | Thursday, January 30, 2020 6:21:36 PM |

Dear City Council and CACH,

I am writing in regards to the CACH's proposal to put a moratorium on towing vehicles. This is an extremely irresponsible proposal. In fact, I'd say it's downright stupid. There are currently many dangerous vehicles on the roads in Santa Cruz, and they pose a serious risk to our community.

From my house on the lower Westside, I constantly see kids riding bikes down to the beach, playing basketball on the street, walking their dogs, or riding their skateboards. It makes me happy to know that I live in a neighborhood where kids can safely play outdoors without constant supervision. It's like how I'd picture the good ol' days. However, with the increase in vehicle dwellers on our neighborhood streets, this environment is changing, and I worry that kids are at risk when they simply want to recreate in their own neighborhoods.

As a 36 year old woman, I also feel very uncomfortable when I'm out by myself. My work bike commute used to take me to the Wrigley Building, and I'd ride on Swanton, Delaware, Natural Bridges, and Mission Street Extension. This had me riding by countless vehicles that clearly had been parked for days--some even were missing wheels and up on blocks, with all the windows covered in cardboard to block whatever was going on inside, not to mention the stench wafting out into the neighborhood. I always rode as far away from these parked vehicles as I could, which put me right in the way of traffic. This city is known for being bike friendly and environmentally conscious, and yet I found myself driving 1.5-miles to work more frequently just to avoid the choice of having to ride next to sketchy RVs or out in the middle of busy roads. And then when I drove my car, I was constantly worried about it getting broken into while I was inside working and supporting Santa Cruz's economy. Do you really want to let this town degenerate like this? Is the moratorium on towing vehicles benefiting the homeowners and tax payers, or is it putting them at risk? The answer seems obvious.

Many of the parked vehicles have bald tires, missing gas caps, leaking tanks, broken mirrors, blocked windows and more. The SCPD has a very important job to do in ticketing these vehicles to ensure they are made safe so as not to endanger the drivers and other vehicles on the road. Should you impose a moratorium on towing, you will be stripping the SCPD of its only enforcement mechanism and thus endangering public safety. Be responsible. DO NOT IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON TOWING. The people of our community deserve to be safe.

Thank you,
Amanda Schaper
831.206.2964
516 Columbia Street