

Subject: Re-Opening of Stumer Rd and Enchantment Rd.

From: Penny Alderman

Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2014 6:29 AM

To: Mayor's Office Group

Subject: Re-Opening of Stumer Rd and Enchantment Rd.

Mayor Kooiker:

It has been brought to our attention that some residents are wanting to take down the barriers at the intersection of Stumer Road and Enchantment Road.

We are extremely concerned about this proposition. **Closing Stumer Road was a stipulation of Wal-Mart being built** based upon the extremely heavy traffic, public nuisance with vehicles, littering, and in our specific case – people driving across our lawn.

We highly object to taking down these barriers – and in fact, feel that the **city assured us that would not happen**. How can they go back and consider opening it for residents who do not live directly along the route being discussed? If this is opened – our neighborhood (our backyard) becomes center in a high traffic commercial development.

What can we do to make sure that this does not happen?

Penny Alderman
303 Enchantment Rd.
Rapid City, SD 57701

April 28, 2014

Dear Mayor Sam Kooiker, City Council Members, and Terry Wolterstorff, Rapid City Public Works Director:

We are writing this letter to you with great concern regarding a petition PW042914-16 that has been submitted:

“We, residents of Rapid City, state here that we would like to have the barriers removed from the intersection near Enchantment Road and Stumer Road.” There is a hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 29th. It is my understanding from calling the City Public Works Department that there are no reasons stated on the petition for this request. Therefore, we have to make the assumption that it is purely for convenience to get to the new Wal-Mart and side stores.

As residents of Rapid City who live across from this intersection since 2006, I am requesting that this petition be denied for many reasons.

1. Safety for our children, parents, and grandparents that live in our neighborhood. We have a fair number of people who go for walks, children playing in the neighborhood (riding scooters, bicycles, etc) and kids crossing the street to play with their neighbors. Removing these barriers will lead to increase traffic (“short cut” to Wal-Mart) through our family-oriented residential neighborhood. As a whole, all of us, who live in this neighborhood want to preserve the safety and family-oriented feel of our neighborhood. In addition, last year there was a string of thefts from vehicles and attempts made to get into our locked garages. Many of us purchased home security systems as we felt our safety was compromised despite having our doors and windows locked at night. Within the last few weeks, the SD Highway Patrol arrested an intoxicated driver at that intersection. The intoxicated driver was traveling on Enchantment Road and attempted to turn towards the apartments and crashed into one of the barriers knocking it completely down and the barrier needing to be replaced. In the past, other neighbors have been awoken in the middle of the night to intoxicated people walking through yards or simply “passing-out” on their property.
2. Safety for the general public. Before the barriers were placed, there was a substantial amount of traffic through the neighborhood. Much of this traffic was generated from the large apartment complex, Eagle Ridge Apartments. We have personally witnessed many traffic violations at this intersection. Many people not coming to complete stop at STOP signs and rolling-on through with near “T-bone” collisions in an attempt to beat the cars coming down the hill or trying to make left hand turns in an attempt to beat the cars coming down the hill.
3. Eagle Ridge Apartments are located at 121 Stumer Road. There are 156 units (single and multi family units) with an estimated population of 350+ people per discussion with their rental office. There are many children who live within in these apartments. These young children often play and ride bicycles/scooters in the parking lots of the complex and cross the street to play in the open lot/field. The section of street that is closed with the use of the barriers allows these children to ride bicycles/scooters and play ball in an area that is safe. Prior to the barriers, there was an enormous amount of traffic coming from the apartments, as many of those renters would take Stumer to Enchantment Road to get to 5th Street instead of traveling down Stumer to 5th Street at the stop light.
4. “Plan D” of the Wal-Mart build. When the new Wal-Mart was being proposed, we, the residents of this family-oriented neighborhood, had voiced our concerns of the

significant increase of traffic that this would generate through our neighborhood and concern for safety. As, you recall, there were many discussions held and different options discussed. Therefore, "Plan D" was submitted and accepted by the City Council as a compromise to keep our neighborhood safe and the Council's promise for safety in exchange for living next door to high-traffic-generating commercial development.

5. Keep our neighborhood beautiful. All of us who reside here take great pride in our homes and yards. Prior to the barriers being placed, the amount of significant traffic from the apartments present at that time resulted in littering and loitering/driving of intoxicated people. There were empty beer cans, bottles, hard liquor bottles, used diapers, fast food bags, cigarettes, used condoms, etc that littered our yards and sidewalks and the sidewalks heading towards the apartments.

In conclusion, we are requesting that you take careful consideration into this matter. These barriers have assisted in keeping our neighborhood (children, parents, grandparents) safe and the neighborhood clean. It is difficult to explain to our children why there are beer cans, liquor bottles, garbage, and used condoms in our yards or on sidewalks and why would anyone want to litter. It is our greatest fear, that the removal of these barriers will undoubtedly lead to increase traffic. This will then set up the "perfect storm" for a catastrophic, tragic accident to occur. That blood will be on your hands and our family neighborhood forever scarred because of the choice to open up that section of street because a few people want a "short-cut" to Wal-Mart instead of driving an additional 2-3 minutes to get there. I would like to invite you to our neighborhood – take a tour, talk to us and our neighbors, observe the intersection (in regards to traffic from the people who live in the neighborhood, traffic from the apartments, and traffic from Wal-Mart), and make your own observations. We appreciate your time, work, and thought put into this matter. We hope you will support us in keeping our family-oriented neighborhood safe.

Sincerely,

Chris and Sue Kilpatrick
304 Enchantment Road
Rapid City, SD 57701
Home - 721-4492

1. THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF STUMER WAS ENCOURAGING FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND OVERALL ACCESS.
2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CITY AND WALMART HAD A CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT TO CLOSE STUMER. WE DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT COULD HAVE BEEN A BENEFIT TO WALMART.
3. WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY MEETING ABOUT THE CLOSURE OF STUMER UNTIL THE CLOSURE WAS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER.
4. ALSO, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT A SMALL GROUP OF 10 TO 12 PEOPLE AND A LAWYER AS A SPOKESMAN MET WITH THE COUNCIL REQUESTING THE CLOSURE OF STUMER, AND STUMER WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CLOSED.
5. THE CLOSURE RESTRICTS ACCESS BY EMERGENCY VEHICLES SUCH AS FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE, AMBULANCE AND EVEN SCHOOL BUSES.
6. THE CLOSURE BLOCKS DIRECT ACCESS TO WALMART AND THE OTHER BUSINESSES.
7. JUST TO GO TO WALMART, DUE TO STUMER BLOCKED OFF AND A MEDIAN BUILT AT DAN CHRISTY AND CATRON, WE HAVE TO DRIVE 1/2 MILE WEST AND BACK 1/2 MILE TO EVEN GO IN THE DIRECTION OF WALMART OR DRIVE DOWN TO 5TH ST. AND OVER TO WALMART.
8. IF STUMER WAS OPEN, WE CAN EASILY DRIVE TO WALMART OR HAVE SIMPLE ACCESS TO BLACK HILLS BOULEVARD TO ACCESS CATRON.
9. THIS REQUEST ISN'T JUST ABOUT WALMART, JUST GETTING ONTO CATRON TO GET TO THE INTERSTATE, OR OTHER PARTS OF RAPID CITY EAST OF US MAKES THE CLOSURE A REAL INCONVENIENCE.
10. FINALLY, THIS IS A NEIGHBORHOOD, NOT A SMALL GROUPS PRIVATE DOMAIN.

ALLEN MCPHERSON
5311 DAN CHRISTY LN
RAPID CITY, SD 57701
605-791-0949

Allen McPherson