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Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 1:43 PM

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Subject: RE: Lochleven Neighborhood Feedback on City Event Traffic & Life Safety Concerns.

Sgt. Michael Shovlin

Thank you for taking the time to speak last week discussing the traffic impact on the 4th of July event on the Lochleven neighborhood. We appreciate your time and candor which has helped us better understand the dynamics leading up to this year's 4th. We realize this year's event was an outlier, while not at the same scale we have experienced similar issues at past 4th celebrations as well as other events including Snowflake Lane. The purpose of this email is to open a dialog and review both immediate and long-term steps the City can take to help mitigate the impact and life-safety risks which may occur during future city sanctioned events.

I am writing on behalf of concerned neighbors on 99th Ave NE and surrounding streets. Lochleven is unique being 99% residential and directly adjacent to the downtown core and exits from the mall and downtown park. With the influx of development adjacent to residential neighborhoods (Pinnacle, The Avenue and others), it is anticipated the traffic impact and parking challenges will only get worse.

We appreciate how this year's 4th celebration drew a significant increase in attendance. As we understand due to the gridlock and pedestrians walking in the middle of 100th, traffic was routed west on NE 5th, dumping onto 99th. As cars were arriving and departing the area at the same time, the gridlock intensified and lasted for several hours. The congestion was compounded by vehicles parking on both sides of NE 99th, leaving a very narrow lane, which was at times impassible. Contributing factors include the lack of continuous sidewalks on 99th from NE 8th to 5th Street. As a result, pedestrians walked in the middle of the street increasing the risk of pedestrian / vehicle accidents.

Intensifying the gridlock was a National Barricade box truck which was illegally parked on the sidewalk on 99th and NE 8th (directly in front and blocking the stop sign). As the sidewalk was partially blocked, pedestrians had to walk in the middle of road. Vehicles could not see around the truck when attempting to enter NE 8th and south bound vehicles onto 99th were squeezed into a narrow path due to cars parked illegally. Neighbors called 911 for traffic assistance and parking enforcement yet these calls went unanswered. We were left on our own trying to direct two-way traffic on a single lane. Drivers where frustrated but fortunately cool heads prevailed. While there are several elderly neighbors on the street, fortunately no medical emergencies occurred as the street would have been impassable for emergency vehicles for over three hours.

Moving forward we are requesting a review of the following suggestions. We believe this should occur within the next 90 days prior to the City approving further major events including Snowflake lane.

Short-Term

1. Conduct a neighborhood walk-through with the Acting Chief and other outlining concerns (previously requested on 8/11).
2. Form a "neighborhood advisory council" for residential neighborhoods directly adjacent to the downtown core and those impacted from event "spill-over". The purpose of would be

to provide input to the City and second it could serve as a communication vehicle to help reach and communicate with neighbors.

3. During major events make 99th temporarily one-way heading North to NE 8th, (traffic would be blocked from turning south onto 99th.)
4. Staff traffic control officers on the corners of NE 5th and 99th & NE 8th during events.
5. Establish pro-active parking enforcement and towing for illegally parked vehicles including those blocking drives during events including the duration of snowflake lane.
6. During events only allow parking on the east side of 99th.
7. Place permanent no parking signs on the corner of NE 5th and 99th Ave NE (A standing request). This is a blind corner. Vehicles turning north on 99th Ave NE have no visibility of vehicles which may be parked the corner. Visibility is significantly obstructed by a hedge whose height is over 10 feet tall. Combined with no sidewalks on 99th, this corner is an “accident waiting to happen”.

Longer Term

1. Expand downtown parking enforcement currently managed by Diamond Parking to 99th. Due to density and reduced downtown parking, the impact has spilled over onto our neighborhood.
2. Making parking permanently only one side of 99th. There is rough consensus within 99th from NE 5th to NE 8th which supports this change.
3. Make the corner of NE 5th and 99th a 4-way stop sign
4. Consider running a shuttle bus from Park and Rides / Churches parking lots on Bellevue Way, while shutting down some of the downtown parking lots.
5. Allocate emergency funding for the completion of sidewalks on 99th from NE 5th to 8th Street. There are only three parcels which need completion, one of which is owned by the City. Our street has become a major walking path for residents of Northwest Bellevue and Vuecrest as is a “connection” to the new Meydenbauer Park. (Sidewalk completion was previously requested through the neighborhood improvement program, but not approved).

On behalf of the residents of 99th Ave NE, I look forward to meeting to discuss these and other ideas which will promote our neighborhood as a safe place to live and visit. Bellevue Police is going a great job, and I think working together we can do better.

I look forward to speaking further.

Craig Spiegle

On Behalf of Residents of the Lochleven Community