

May 30, 2022

To The City Council

SUBJECT: Grant Creek Rezoning

We oppose the rezoning of the property at 2930 Expo Parkway.

I have lived in the Prospect neighborhood for 19 years; commuting to employment, to church, and to grocery stores on a regular basis. We have been active in community and neighborhood activities and appreciate the public service of local and state officials; it can be a thankless job. We have seen fires in the neighborhoods, increased traffic due to ski season and summer visitors. Visitors to the hotels, restaurants, gas station and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation routinely increase the traffic density impact on emergency services transit into and out of the Grant Creek valley.

The request for increasing the number of apartments would have little impact on the low-income housing shortage in Missoula and produce a myriad of problems for Grant Creek residents. To increase the density from approximately 500 dwelling units to 1150 would double the population of Grant Creek. Despite the improved road configuration at the interchange light at Grant Creek Road and the Interstate 90, there is still only one way in and out of Grant Creek. Back-ups at the traffic light at peak traffic time have caused accidents.

Traffic problems remain a major concern. With no public transportation every new resident of Grant Creek will be using personal automobiles to get to work, school or other activities. These dwelling units are not going to be available to low-income families, they are market rate units that allow Mr. Ault to maximize his profit as he walks away from the issues he created. Current and new residents of Grant Creek will suffer the consequences of the impact on traffic, quality of life, environmental degradation. One family friend who recently moved to the Expo Parkway is irritated with attempting to get onto Grant Creek Road and strongly opposes further enlargement of the development.

I understand the need for new housing in Missoula combined with need for developers to make a living, but the negative problems created by the rezoning and expansion of the current development plans far outweigh the benefits to current and new Grant Creek residents.

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