<u>33</u> **6**-25-13

Jackie Henderson

From:

cemmetheald@gmail.com

Sent:

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 10:57 AM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36166: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmem

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36166.

Request Details:

Name: Caroline Heald

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: (703) 683-1053Email: cemmetheald@gmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description:

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I live and work in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I would like to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where I feel unsafe riding in the street. I realize that pedestrians may be startled by my bicycle and I do ride carefully, but I am not willing to ride where I do not feel safe.

I regularly use Capital Bikeshare bikes to travel from the King Street Metro station to the bike station at Prince and Union Streets. The brick sidewalks on the 100-block of Prince Street are bumpy, but the cobblestone street pavement is truly impossible.

If sidewalk riding is prohibited on some streets, please make sure that those not be streets with fast-moving traffic. Citizens should be able to ride throughout Alexandria. While I dislike sidewalk riding and strongly prefer riding in bike lanes or on quiet residential streets, sidewalk riding is sometimes the only safe option. Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Caroline Heald 221 Wolfe Street Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 683-1053 cemmetheald@gmail.com

Expected Response Date: Tuesday, July 2

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

33

Jackie Henderson

From:

jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Sent:

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 11:42 AM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36168: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmembe

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36168.

Request Details:

Name: Jonathan Krall

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703 477 4186

Email: <u>ionathan@jonathankrall.net</u>

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I live in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I prefer to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where I feel unsafe riding in the street. I realize that pedestrians may be startled by my bicycle and I do ride carefully, but I am not willing to ride where I do not feel safe.

In fact, I ride on a short section of narrow sidewalk on Washington St, almost daily, between the Wilson Bridge Trail and Church St to the north.

If sidewalk riding is prohibited on some streets, please make sure that those are not streets with fast-moving traffic. Citizens should be able to ride throughout Alexandria. While I dislike sidewalk riding and strongly prefer riding in bike lanes or on quiet residential streets, sidewalk riding is sometimes the only safe option. Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Jonathan Krall 6a E Mason Ave Alexandria, VA 22301 703 477 4186

Expected Response Date: Tuesday, July 2

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

Jackie Henderson

From:

ahamre@gmail.com

Sent:

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 2:23 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36190: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmembers,

Dear Call. Click. Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36190.

Request Details:

Name: Andrea Hamre

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 6512838742Email: ahamre@gmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I live and work in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I prefer to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where I feel unsafe riding in the street. I try to be very courteous to pedestrians, because they feel a speed differential the way bicyclists do on streets.

Thiis ordinance change would help me use the King Street Capital Bikeshare station, because Prince Street is one-way on the street. In addition, I need to use sidewalks when I bike along Route 1 between Old Town and my home in the Lynhaven neighborhood, and when accessing the Mt Vernon trail along East Abingdon. Sidewalks are also important ways for children to get used to cycling in our City. Many children in my neighborhood ride on our sidewalks between Cora Kelly school and their homes.

If sidewalk riding is prohibited on some streets, please make sure that those not be streets with fast-moving traffic. Citizens should be able to ride throughout Alexandria.

Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Andrea Hamre 205 Wesmond Drive, 22305 651-283-8742, ahamre@gmail.com

• Expected Response Date: Tuesday, July 2

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

bentbiking@yahoo.com

Sent:

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 2:53 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36201: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Mayor, Vice-mayor, and

Council, Ple

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call. Click. Connect. The request ID is 36201.

Request Details:

Name: Dave Levy

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703-549-5289Email: bentbiking@yahoo.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Mayor, Vice-mayor, and Council,

Please vote for the proposed Bicycle Ordinance to conform with Virginia law that has been in place for several years. We do need some criteria for sidewalks or areas where riding would be prohibited. I do not, however, believe the width of a sidewalk is relevant:

- 1. Some sidewalks or plazas (e.g., Market Square and small school playgrounds) are wide enough but have high pedestrian traffic, such as on King St. from the waterfront to the Commonwealth Av. intersection.
- 2. Some sidewalks are narrow but have low pedestrian traffic, especially in the many residential areas, such as Janney's Ln. and Seminary Rd. and adjoining streets. These are ideal sidewalks on which children can learn to bike
- 3. Some sidewalks are along heavily traveled motor vehicle corridors. While I may feel safe on some of these roadways as an experienced bike commuter, many children, adults, and older adults cannot maneuver safely in the street traffic.
- 4. The major arterial streets throughout Alexandria lack bike lanes or the newer on-street, separated bicycle tracks. Even I will not bike on Duke St. between Callahan Dr. west to I 395!

The City needs to recognize that we need many more safe bicycling facilities on our streets. We need to narrow or reduce the number of lanes where multi-lanes exist to provide for bike lanes and cycle tracks. We need better maintenance of all sidewalks. This is a priority pedestrian safety issue, especially the brick-paved ones in Old Town. Bicyclists should assist in educating all cyclists, primarily by example, about their responsibility to pass safely or yield -even stop- to allow pedestrians safe use of the sidewalk.

We also need more attention from the Alexandria Police Department for maintaining safety for pedestrians and bicyclists at intersections. I have observed several officers in patrol cars failing to yield right-of-way to pedestrians attempting to cross Mt. Vernon Av. at intersections; I did see an officer yield a few days ago. APD needs to be educating motorists by example.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. Please approve this ordinance. Sincerely,

Dave Levy

Expected Response Date: Tuesday, July 2

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Sent:

Thursday, June 20, 2013 11:35 AM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #35968: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Please see attached letter in

support of

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User-

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 35968.

Request Details:

Name: Jonathan Krall

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703 477 4186

Email: jonathan@jonathankrall.net

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Please see attached letter in support of the City Staff effort to update the ordinance on bicycling. We thank you for your time and attention.

Attachment: http://request.alexandriava.gov/GeoReport/UploadedFile.ashx/pdf/3550be55-acd5-424d-b5b1-

37f46e6a3a2c

Expected Response Date: Thursday, June 27

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council,

I am writing on behalf of BPAC, first to thank you for your support of biking and walking in the recent budget process. The increase in funding for Complete Streets was particularly encouraging and your role in supporting this program is often discussed at BPAC meetings as we work with Hillary Poole to implement that program. We hope you will continue to support her and her efforts.

I am also writing about the proposed change to the bicycle ordinance, which was tabled this Saturday. We are concerned that this simple procedural change may be derailed by giving too much credence to those few that think there will be a sudden explosion of sidewalk riding or of injuries to pedestrians. Cyclists are people too; as law abiding as anyone else. Numerous studies show that cyclists are less dangerous to pedestrians than motorists [1,2].

Because the most talked-about issue was sidewalk riding, we'd like to address that issue. Because very few people know the details of this rarely-enforced law, changing this law will not change behavior. People will instead continue to ride on sidewalks when they do not feel safe riding in the street or when no one has taught them that the appropriate place for adults to ride is on the road. Changing this ordinance will reduce confusion for the few people who take time to learn the law or who run afoul of the law.

As is stands, we have narrow sidewalks on streets such as Seminary Road (a designated bicycle route) where few cyclists are willing to ride in the street. In these instances, the relevant ordinance is the one requiring cyclists to yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks. This rule is not altered by the updated ordinance and should be enforced as needed to protect pedestrians.

As stated during Saturday's hearing, BPAC supports a ban on sidewalk riding in limited areas, such as the busy section of King Street (from West St to the river). In this case, we would also ask that sharrows be added to King Street, to indicate to cyclists (and drivers) that this is the correct place to ride. Combined, these two steps will address our concerns for pedestrian safety in the retail and dining blocks and also address our concerns for cyclist safety on the streets. We have received complaints at BPAC from riders who were honked-at by drivers on King Street and it is our duty to speak up for them as well as for pedestrians.

Finally, two principles should guide how no-sidewalk-riding areas are defined and implemented (1) Safety of both cyclists and pedestrians and (2) Enforceability. We trust that you and the City staff will craft guidelines that achieve both of these objectives.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Krall Secretary, Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee 703 477 4186

- [1] For example, a study of crash-fatalities involving alcohol showed an intoxication rate of 63 percent for pedestrians, 55 percent for drivers and 33 percent for cyclists [City Cycling by Pucher and Buehler, p 147]. Similar results are found in cause-of-crash studies.
- [2] Pedestrians are killed by motor vehicles at a rate of about 9,000/year and by bicycles at a rate of about 1/year. The latter events are rare and, as a result, are widely reported in the press.

From: jrcolehound@yahoo.com

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2013 10:52 PM

To: City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #36007: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear City CouncilI'm am

writing to a

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request 1D is 36007.

Request Details:

Name: Randy Cole

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 7038877126
Email: ircolehound@yahoo.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear City Council

I'm am writing to ask you to Approve the new Bike Law that allows biking on sidewalks, unless it's clearly posted as 'prohibited'.

I am big fan of biking to work, and in my 12 years in Alexandria working as a consultant I've managed to bike to work from my house near the Masonic Memorial to jobs on Capitol Hill (49 minutes), Clarendon (70 minutes), Crystal City (15 minutes) and the Pentagon (20 minutes). I also bike from my house along Duke Street's sidewalks when I need to go to the King Street metro (4 minutes).

On a Friday evening last fall I took a recreational ride with my neighbor and her two girls (7 and 9 years old) to the Masonic Parking lot. As the ride progressed, our group decided that it was time for dinner so rather than go back home and jump in a car, we proceeded with our bikes to old town stopping at Hard Times for dinner. So that the children were not in danger, we rode the sidewalks. It was on my return trip that a police officer stopped and ticketed me citing the archaic 1963 code. The ticket cost me \$121 (\$25 fine plus court fees).

After getting the ticket I approached leaders of the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. They informed me that over the past 10 years they had attempted to get this law changed only to be told that it was not necessary since it was no longer getting enforced. But armed with my new conviction, they re-started the effort to fix this old code.

I understand that you will have an opportunity to vote on the new code on Tuesday. I urge you to vote yes to approve this new code because, by approving this new code you will:

- 1. Align Alexandria's biking laws with all surrounding jurisdictions and Virginia State Law
- 2. Eliminate the stifling overbearing 1963 code that confuses cyclists and the parents that want to let their kids ride their bikes on the sidewalk in front of their house or into the city
- 3. Open the city to many great new possibilities:
- a. Youth and Children will no longer be law-breakers when making the smart choice to bike on a sidewalk to get to school, a friends house or a park.
- b. Remove a legal barrier that keeps the school system from thinking green and opens the door to allowing students to bike to school. (Imagine this: if biking to school using sidewalks was legal and allowed by the school system, combined with funding to make sure there are Safe Bike Routes to school, we could possibly eliminate or reduce the number of bus stops at each school. That would be a real green, long term savings!)
- 4. Allow new generations of Alexandrians to learn that biking in an around town (rather than driving) is a real option
- 5. Eliminate a law that undermines the city's other pro-bike initiatives and Bike Friendly Community Designation

I hope you share these same convictions and approve this new code.

Respectfully Randy Cole

• Expected Response Date: Thursday, June 27

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

michye00@hotmail.com

Sent:

Friday, June 21, 2013 12:36 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36027: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Just finished reading the

article on the

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36027.

Request Details:

Name: Micheline Eyraud

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 7035678896Email: michye00@hotmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

- Request Description: Just finished reading the article on the requirement for bicycle shop owners to report bicycle sales to the police. Is there a similar ordinance that requires that gun store owners report gun sales to the police department (after all, guns kill people while bicycles are merely an alternate mode of transportation)? This ordinance is on shaky consitutional grounds in light of the many Supreme Court ruling protecting privacy and should be repealed. I will be buying my next bike in Arlington (too bad, no sales tax revenue for Alexandria).
- Expected Response Date: Friday, June 28

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

ouibike@gmail.com

Sent:

Saturday, June 22, 2013 2:55 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36047: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Re Docket item 33, please

pass the chang

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36047.

Request Details:

Name: Bruce Dwyer

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703-549-3263Email: ouibike@gmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

• Request Description: Re Docket item 33, please pass the changes to the bicycle ordinances. There any many sections of the city code that are out of date and need updating to be consistent with state laws. Your main concern has to do with the riding of bicycles on sidewalks, which the state code has allowed for over 10 years. This change came about in part from lobbying on the part of middle schoolers in the Tidewater area who were prevented by the police from riding bikes to school on sidewalks while their parents forbid them from riding their bicycles in the street. The state code also gives local jurisdictions the authority to prohibit sidewalk riding on designated sidewalks where signs are "conspicuously" posted. As a bicyclist and a pedestrian, I believe that there are many locations where sidewalk riding is not appropriate and most bicyclists I know would agree. However, I have several concerns with the direction the Council was taking at the public hearing to set hard and fast criteria into the ordinance.

First, I take strong exception to the characterization that bicyclists as a class of people are irresponsible because a few of them "blow through stop signs" and therefore can not be trusted to behave appropriately on sidewalks. I ride on the sidewalk when I think it is too dangerous to ride in the roadway and I yield to pedestrians. This is a practice followed by most cyclists I know. Pedestrians are the most vulnerable roadway users and need to be treated as such by both bicyclists and motorists.

Second, my wife and I walk and bike a lot and have not experienced an endemic problem with bike riding on sidewalks. Yes, as pedestrians we have on occasion had some difficulty with cyclists on the sidewalk, but typically these have been in locations where riding in the street is dangerous, such as on the wide sidewalk on the Route 1 Bridge over Monroe Avenue. This is an example of the issue being cyclist behavior, not the location of the sidewalk.

Third, the opinion was offered that a width criterion would be an appropriate measure and that most sidewalks in the city would be too narrow to allow bike riding. There are many locations where a narrow sidewalk is the only safe route, for example, most of Duke Street, including where it crosses I-395. A blanket width criteria would be much too broad and exclude many sidewalks that are the only safe places to bicycle.

Fourth, there were comments that this would be a big change. I believe that most bicyclists do not know of the current blanket prohibition, nor will they know that sidewalk riding would become legal with the change in the ordinance, so I would not expect a big change in sidewalk riding as a result. However, more sidewalk riding may come as a result of people finding it a practical, efficient, healthy, and inexpensive transportation mode. So clarifying the law now is important.

Fifth, while I am generally in favor of prohibiting sidewalk riding in the King Street and Union Street areas proposed, I am concerned that such broad areas may need exceptions, such as for kids to ride their bikes to Jefferson Houston Elementary School.

Sixth, Council questioned why Alexandria should look to Arlington as a model? I suggest that Arlington is a good role model because they have been recognized as one of the nation's leading communities in promoting both bicycling and walking while holding vehicular use steady over the past 20 years.

With these concerns in mind I would like you consider the following recommendations:

First, delete the section that makes a blanket prohibition of sidewalk riding in the King and Union Street area. While most of the area seems to be appropriate for a sidewalk riding prohibition, perhaps the area around Jefferson Houston School is not. I believe hard and fast criteria incorporated into the ordinance will severely limit flexibility to prohibit sidewalk riding only in appropriate locations. A systematic data collection and analysis after the ordinance is in place would be appropriate to making informed decisions about where to prohibit sidewalk riding. The new ordinance does have a perfectly adequate process that gives sufficient authority to the Director of TES to make these determinations on a case by case basis with public input. The concerns voiced by Council members and the public could be addressed more fully in this process.

Second, once a sidewalk area is determined as appropriate for a sidewalk riding prohibition, I recommend that TES not post the prohibition signs until measures are put in place in the roadway to give bicyclists some minimal level of protection. A bicyclist should not have to face the conundrum of breaking the law or putting themselves in harm's way on a dangerous street. Such measures could include "Share the Road" signs, sharrows or bike lane road surface markings, and a speed limit not to exceed 25 MPH. I believe the 25 MPH speed limit is the most important of these based on FHWA studies showing the probability of pedestrian death from various vehicle impact speeds as 5% at 20 MPH; 45% at 30 MPH; and 85% at 40 MPH. (I will take the liberty to venture that similar probabilities apply to bicyclists.) In the future, separate cycle tracks like the 15th Street facility in Washington, may be necessary.

Third, I recommend the city undertake a public outreach effort to cast this change as a positive move to protect the most vulnerable roadway users, both pedestrians and bicyclists. To date the discussions have been more of a negative nature of pedestrians verses bicyclists. As one of both classes, I am looking forward to seeing a safer environment for walking and biking in Alexandria.

Note: I have been under the impression that Alexandria is subject to the "Dillon Rule" which grants various authorities to local jurisdictions. The Deputy City Attorney has advised that as a charter jurisdiction, Alexandria can do what it wants. However, I would still strongly recommend as a matter of policy that Alexandria align its bicycle related laws with the state laws as our neighboring jurisdictions have done.

Thank you for consideration of my views.

Bruce Dwyer 915 Bernard Street

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

bikingjenn@aol.com

Sent:

Friday, June 21, 2013 11:02 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36044: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Mayor, Vice Mayor and City

Council membe

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36044.

Request Details:

Name: Jennifer Weiss

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703-304-0345Email: bikingienn@aol.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Council members,

I am writing to ask that you pass the Bike Change ordinance as proposed by City Staff, based on my experience in Alexandria as follows:

- 1. As a person who works in Alexandria, I ride the Bike lanes/shared road South on Walter Reed from Arlington. When I cross King Street into Alexandria, I switch to the sidewalk for my personal safety since N. Beauregard has neither bike lanes nor signs to indicate that Bikes may share the road. I yield to pedestrians as required. A slow ride on a sidewalk, stopping as necessary for pedestrians, is much preferred compared to risking my life on N. Beauregard.
- 2. I volunteered to help with Alexandria's Bicycle and Pedestrian counts in May, 2013. My location was on Mount Vernon Avenue, just south of Four Mile Run. This area has numerous pedestrians and cyclists. The cyclists typically rode on the sidewalk, presumably for their personal safety. Cyclists were respectful of and yielded to pedestrians as necessary.

Educating and encouraging people to be respectful of each other, coupled with enforcement of the requirement for cyclists to yield, should be the City's primary approach for ensuring safety of all. Prohibiting riding on sidewalks should be a last resort, and used only after consideration of both pedestrian and Cyclist safety. The proposed ordinance is fair and equitable. Please approve it as is.

3. I lead a team of 40 cyclists and ride in a very large Arlington-based group of recreational cyclists, plus I participate in WABA and PPTC rides. We have an enthusiastic group of cyclists in the DC metro area who live and ride through your city and would like to do so without feeling endangered by the ever-increasing traffic in our region. Being allowed to legally bike on sidewalks when afraid to ride in the street should be a priority for your jurisdiction. Please keep us safe!

Sincerely, Jennifer Weiss bikingjenn@aol.com 5008 26th St N Arlington, VA 22207

Expected Response Date: Friday, June 28

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface

From:

chris@dodgersden.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 1:51 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36095: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmembe

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36095.

Request Details:

Name: Chris Slatt

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: No Phone

Email: chris@dodgersden.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I work in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I prefer to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where I feel unsafe riding in the street. I realize that pedestrians may be startled by my bicycle and I do ride carefully, but I am not willing to ride where I do not feel safe.

I commute by bicycle from my home in Arlington to Alexandria whenever weather and schedule permit and often bike to Alexandria with my kids on the weekend. I always plan my routes around low-speed roads and dedicated bicycle facilities, put take great comfort in knowing that sidewalk riding is an option should things go wrong and I end up somewhere unexpected. This confidence that there is always a safe option no matter what happens is vital to encouraging cycling.

Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Chris Slatt

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

dj_scorched_earth@yahoo.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 1:42 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36094: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmembe

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36094.

Request Details:

Name: Jake Jakubek

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: No Phone

Email: di scorched earth@yahoo.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I live in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I prefer to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where

I or my family feel unsafe riding in the street. I realize that pedestrians may be startled by my bicycle and I do ride carefully, but I am not willing to ride where I do not feel safe.

There are parts of Alexandria where it is simply too dangerous to be on the road amongst speeding vehicles while riding a bicycle. Duke Street is a prime example. While I do not normally ride on the sidewalks out of courtesy to pedestrians however getting to my apartment on Duke Street safely requires that I take the sidewalk. I do not ride aggressively on the sidewalks by my apartment and always let pedestrians know that I am approaching them.

If sidewalk riding is prohibited on some streets, please make sure that those not be streets with fast-moving traffic. Citizens should be able to ride throughout Alexandria. While I dislike sidewalk riding and strongly prefer riding in bike lanes or on quiet residential streets, sidewalk riding is sometimes the only safe option for me and my family. Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Jake Jakubek

5270 Duke St Apt 415 Alexandria, VA 22304

202-556-0431

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

scott.binde@gmail.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 2:13 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36097: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmembe

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36097.

Request Details:

Name: Scott Binde

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: (703) 535-7356

Email: scott.binde@gmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

• Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I live in Alexandria and I am writing to ask for your support on the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I got rid of my car two years ago for health, environmental, and economic reason. I primarily depend on bicycling, walking, and public transit for transportation. While I prefer not to bicycle on sidewalks, and I usually I do not, and strongly preferring multi-use trails, bike lanes or quiet residential streets; sidewalk riding is sometimes the only safe option. When I must ride on the sidewalk, I do so carefully, as I am often times also a pedestrian, but I am not willing to ride on some streets where I do not feel safe.

I strongly support the proposed update, it will make clear where bicycles can and cannot use sidewalks, which is even more important with the increasing of visitors using CaBi Please vote in favor of this update without delay. It is a small change, but quite important to those of us who depend on our bicycles for our everyday transportation.

Thank you for time.

Scott Binde 1307 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA (703) 535-7356

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

kpappva@gmail.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 2:00 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36096: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council The attached file addresses

the Bike Ord

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36096.

Request Details:

Name: Kathryn Papp

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: No Phone

Email: kpappva@gmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: The attached file addresses the Bike Ordinance changes as they apply only to the Historic
District and the "Pedestrian Trade Area", a designation of the Gibbs Planning Group, Inc in their city requested
King Street retail study.

It would be best to delay this vote until a Workgroup can design a better set of rules for the entire city, reflecting the nature of West End and central, suburban Alexandria.

The vote can be taken to come into compliance with State code. The municipal ordinance can survive the summer without much negative consequences... as it has for a very long time.

Best,

Kathryn Papp

- Attachment: http://request.alexandriava.gov/GeoReport/UploadedFile.ashx/doc/61a62135-3975-4514-ba30-7e3908829751
- Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

randy@dingwell.net

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 2:35 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36101: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council I am writing to urge you to

support the

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36101.

Request Details:

Name: randolph dingwell

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 561-818-2656

Email: randy@dingwell.net

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: I am writing to urge you to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance update. I live
inAlexandria and bicycle and walk a great deal, so issues such as whether one can ride a bike on a sidewalk,
though they seem small in the great scheme of Alexandria, are important to me.

When bicycling, my preference is always to use a bike path or street, but there are areas and times when this is outright dangerous.

When riding on the sidewalk I will give way to a pedestrian if it is crowded; I see most other bikers do the same. I understand that this change will make Alexandria law match state law on the subject.

Please vote to update this Ordinance and allow bicycle riding on the sidewalk.

Cordially

Randy Dingwell

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

jmcglos@yahoo.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 2:49 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36105: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Counci Imemb

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36105.

Request Details:

Name: Juliana McGlosson

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: No Phone
Email: imcglos@yahoo.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Counci Imembers,

I live and work in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I prefer to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where I or my family feel unsafe riding in the street. I realize that pedestrians may be startled by my bicycle and I do ride carefully, but I am not willing to ride where I do not feel safe.

I commute daily from North Old Town to the Mark Center on my bike. Unfortunately, Alexandria City does not have signage or striping on the roadway for bicycles on the streets around the Mark Center (including Beauregard Street and Seminary Road) like Arlington does on S. Walter Reed, therefore there is less awareness for bicycles on Beauregard and Seminary Roads. Because of this, for a small portion of my ride into work (1/2 block on Seminary Road that connects me to a back parking lot), I feel the safest route is on the sidewalk. I wish I felt safe enough to ride the roads around the Mark Center b/c I feel that the more bicycles and cars learn respect for each other, the better a city will be, but until that time, I choose to ride on the sidewalk for a small portion of my commute.

If sidewalk riding is prohibited on some streets, please make sure that those not be streets with fast-moving traffic. Citizens should be able to ride throughout Alexandria. While I dislike sidewalk riding and strongly prefer riding in bike lanes or on quiet residential streets, sidewalk riding is sometimes the only safe option for me and my family. Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Juliana McGlosson 907 Portner Pl Alexandria, VA 22314 imcglos@yahoo.com

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

jrcolehound@yahoo.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 3:43 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36116: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear City Council and Mayor

Euille:I

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36116.

Request Details:

Name: Randy Cole

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 7038877126Email: jrcolehound@yahoo.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear City Council and Mayor Euille:

I've heard that the latest modification of the proposed Biking code is carving out a specific 'no bicycle on sidewalk' area for the commercial district on King street . I believe that this is bad code for the following reasons:

- 1. There already is a process in place for any district to petition the Traffic and Parking Board for getting a 'no biking on sidewalk' designation. The King street Business District should not be treated as 'privileged class' and get a carve out when they should, like any other district, follow the process. (but they can and should be first in line)
- 2. Embedding a King Street exception in code will make this permanent (note that the current code is circa 1963 and has been out of synch with state code for over 10 years). Do we really want to set up another situation where we make code so permanent that it will be dysfunctional as the demographics of Alexandria transportation changes?
- 2. Although the motivation & concerns of business owners on King street is understood (their greatest fear: this code change will turn King Street commercial district sidewalks into a Tour De Alexandria throughways) it is really unnecessary because it "makes an exception the rule" because:
- a. Bicyclists (local or out of town tourists) would rather bike on the streets (smoother & faster ride, more room to maneuver, don't need to dodge trees, pedestrians, dogs on leashes or dining tables).
- b.IF there were bold & prominent Bike lanes on King sheet, most if not all bicyclists would use the bike lanes on the street rather than the sidewalk.
- c. If there's another family with children wanting to bike and dine in old town, for safety's sake they should be able to take a safe route which might include an occasional sidewalk without getting a ticket.
- 3. How can this carve out for 'no bikes on King Street sidewalks' exist when there's a 15 rack bikeshare station bolted to the King street sidewalk in Market Square?? Anyone using that station will be riding the sidewalk. 4. The Business district leaders cannot have it both ways: claiming the sidewalk AND not allowing for bold prominent Bike Lanes on King Street. If they get their carve out, then bicycliist should get their bold, safe bike lane down King Street.
- 5. You can fit more tourists riding bicycles on King street than you can tourists riding in cars (cars are space and parking hogs) Additionally, if they are biking, they will get hungrier, thirstier and will stop more often.

To fix this city leaders need to take the bold move of 1. Eliminating the King street carve out because it is unnecessary and undemocratic 2. Continue promoting green and healthy alternatives to Car transportation by painting some bold and prominent bike lanes down king street connecting the metro to the waterfront. 3. Asking the King Street Business community to be first in line with a petition to the Traffic and Parking Board.

Respectfully

Randy Cole 136 Moncure Dr 223134

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

jimandcarey48@comcast.net

Sent:

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 1:48 AM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36145: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City

Council memb

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36145.

Request Details:

Name: Jim Durham

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703-508-0762

Email: jimandcarey48@comcast.net

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and City Council members,

I am an Alexandria resident and I support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. My family and I use bicycles for transportation as well as recreation. We ride on the sidewalk in places where it is unsafe to ride in the street. We ride carefully, yield to and warn pedestrians when we encounter them, and expect the same from cyclists when we are walking. Two examples:

-- My grandson is learning to ride in our neighborhood on a narrow West End sidewalk. He is being taught to stop and let pedestrians pass when they are on the same sidewalk. He rides his bike on a sidewalk (with his parents)

to visit me.

-- I ride regularly to a location in Seminary Heights. As an experienced rider, I ride on Seminary Road from Quaker Lane to the Mark Center. To the west of the Mark Center, however, the traffic exceeds my risk threshold and I ride on a narrow sidewalk to my destination. I often encounter pedestrians and dismount to let them pass.

Please vote in favor of this update without delay.

- As proposed, the ordinance change is a win-win approach. The ordinance will (1) improve safety for both pedestrians and those who use their bicycles for transportation (2) provide a process for public participation in follow-on decisions about where to prohibit cycling on sidewalks.

- The proposed ordinance improves safety of both our citizens and our visitors by including an initial set of

prohibited sidewalk-riding locations.

- The ordinance, as proposed, supports cycling as transportation for people of all ages; please do not impose an arbitrary age restriction.

Please consider the following in your directions to City Staff:

(1) Consider the safety of both pedestrians and cyclists, e.g. if riding on a sidewalk is prohibited, then where can cyclists ride safely. Think of the 2.4% of the 30,000 Alexandria Residents in the Beauregard corridor who commute by bike - nearly 5 times the regional average - how will they ride to their destinations without use of some sidewalks?

(2) Please do NOT give City Staff a set of rules based on a perception of cyclists as scofflaws. The vast majority of us who ride do so responsibly and deserve to be treated with the same respect as other Alexandria residents. Please help set the example by continuing to respect both cyclists and pedestrians, and expecting them to respect each other.

(3) Accelerate planned on-street bicycle improvements in high-pedestrian traffic locations such as sections of

Prince and Cameron streets.

Thanks for your support, Jim Durham

Expected Response Date: Tuesday, July 2

From:

aggie.byers@gmail.com

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 9:48 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36142: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and

Councilmembe

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36142.

Request Details:

Name: Aggie Byers

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: 703-346-2938
Email: aggie.bvers@gmail.com

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers,

I live in Alexandria and am writing to support the proposed Bicycle Ordinance Update. I prefer to be allowed to ride on the sidewalk in places where I or my family feel unsafe riding in the street. I realize that pedestrians may be startled by my bicycle and I do ride carefully, using a bell or vocal notification of my presence. But I am not willing to ride where I do not feel safe, and that includes many Alexandria streets without sidewalks that I avoid.

If sidewalk riding is prohibited on some streets, please make sure that those not be streets with fast-moving traffic. Citizens should be able to ride throughout Alexandria. While I dislike sidewalk riding and strongly prefer riding in bike lanes or on quiet residential streets, sidewalk riding is sometimes the only safe option. Please vote in favor of this update without delay. This is a small change, but it is important to those of us who ride bicycles.

Thank you for time and attention.

Aggie Byers 4578 Shetland Green Rd Alexandria, VA 22312 703-346-2938

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact <u>CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov</u> or call 703.746.HELP.

From:

jgrotte@alum.mit.edu

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 8:07 PM

To:

City Council; City Council Aides; Jackie Henderson; Community Relations

Subject:

Call.Click.Connect. #36139: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council Regarding sidewalk

bicycling:I am a lo

Dear Call.Click.Connect. User

A request was just created using Call.Click.Connect. The request ID is 36139.

Request Details:

Name: Jeffrey Grotte

Approximate Address: No Address Specified

Phone Number: No Phone

Email: igrotte@alum.mit.edu

Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor City Council

Request Description: Regarding sidewalk bicycling:

I am a long-time resident and regular bicycle commuter in Alexandria and am willing to support allowing sidewalk bicycling only under certain conditions:

1. Sidewalk bicycling is not permitted in areas where there is heavy pedestrian traffic. In my view this includes old town, Del Ray, Rosemont and other areas where sidewalks are narrow and street bicycling is not that difficult. That will take a lot of signage.

2. Publication of and enforcement of "rules of the road" for all stakeholders--cars, bikes, pedestrians--actually occurs. Hoping that everyone gets it right is wishful thinking. Bikesharers also need this information, since the

rules vary by jurisdiction in this area.

3. Sidewalk bicycling is not seen as a substitute for bicycling infrastructure. This is particularly needed on Duke Street, around Mark Center, on Beauregard Street, on Seminary Road, and other high-congestion, high speed routes. I would also request more signage along the lines of "share the road" even in these areas. I personally am more comfortable on the road, but can understand the temptation to use empty sidewalks when traffic is heavy or when climbing hills.

Of course, I would allow permit wider latitude for sidewalk bicycling for children under, say, 12 or 13.

--J. H. Grotte

West Glendale Avenue.

Expected Response Date: Monday, July 1

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the Call.Click.Connect. staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CommunityRelations@alexandriava.gov or call 703,746.HELP.

From:

Poul Hertel <poulh@erols.com>

Sent:

Monday, June 24, 2013 6:12 PM

To:

William Euille; Paul Smedberg; Del Pepper; delpepper@aol.com; John Chapman; Allison

Silberberg; Justin Wilson; Timothy Lovain

Cc:

Jackie Henderson

Subject:

Bicycles on sidewalks

Regarding; Proposal to allow bicycles on sidewalks

To; The Mayor and Members of the Alexandria City Council

Cc; Jackie Henderson, City Clerk

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

Cities that are considered lively and vibrant are also full of pedestrians, because they are an essential element for that to occur.

Furthermore, walking is an important element for maintaining health. It is as a pedestrian that the city qualities are truly experienced. Whether choosing to walk or ride a bike, using public transit or driving a car, one becomes a pedestrian at some point. Pedestrians meet other people, create social contacts, enjoy the retail and take part in the life of the community. Some may walk round for hours in the center, becoming part of the urban life experience, especially in a city renowned for its historic ambience.

Safety and security are vital for the pedestrians in urban centers, since they contribute to city life - both on the streets and squares. They are enmeshed in the urban fabric, since they support retailers, eat in restaurants, and participate in cultural events, etc. When pedestrians walk, it should be without risk of being run down. They are the most vulnerable and should be afforded the greatest protection.

Bicycle-friendly governments such as Denmark recognize the significance of pedestrians and cyclists, but also understand their inherent incompatibility. When cycling on the sidewalks is allowed, it creates conflicts and disagreements with pedestrians, because cyclists do not always cycle in a manner that acknowledges or respects the pedestrians. For this reason, Denmark does not allow bicycles on sidewalks as a matter of law. Furthermore, the Danish bicycle union emphasizes the law on its web site. Although there are bicycle lanes in Copenhagen, many streets do not have these lanes, so bicycles share the street with vehicles.

The current proposal is presented as a right of bicyclists rather than a need to protect pedestrians, which was the original intent of the law. Studies show that most tourists come to the City of Alexandria to enjoy its historic ambiance, and it is famous for its walkability. For all of these reasons, we request that bicycle riding on sidewalks not be allowed in the historic district. Please help us maintain the pedestrian-friendly nature by supporting our request.

Sincerely

Connie Graham and Poul Hertel 1217 Michigan Court