From: Jessica Bean
To: Grp. City Council and City Web Site
Subject: Statement for Rezoning Grant Creek
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 4:26:41 PM

To Planning Board and City Councilors,

Let's face it people around the U.S. no longer think we are still living in log cabins and riding our horses to school or work. They know our best kept secret and are moving here rapidly to get a piece of it.

A couple years ago when the request to rezone Grant Creek was brought before city council, I slacked in stating my opinion thinking that it would be impossible that the request wouldn't be approved. As you know and see, landlords are increasing the rents far beyond any median wage in Missoula can afford because of the lack of vacancy and yet our city members have decided to deny giving us more rental units. I'm confused why there is even a hesitation especially since the land is in the growth policy that calls for dense housing and that policy was approved by the council. Why do we have an approved policy if it isn't going to be followed?

I've sat in meetings where former council member Heather Harp attended listening to Missoulian's outcry for help and their horrific stories of being forced out of their current home while not being able to afford to rent a new one or such a lack of vacancy to find one in general. Her statements while serving at the previous rezoning decision and in this last meeting have been on target and a true guide for her fellow council members to follow as she in the field fighting for the people of Missoula.

The neighbors that have concerns are secured homeowners who have faced no financial burden in the housing market whatsoever. However, I wanted to make sure that their concerns weren't valid. So, I researched them by driving Grant Creek intersection A LOT and I have not personally experienced any issues with traffic. The wait times were minimal, and I always made it through the first light. Also, while listening to the meetings and reading the documents provided, the traffic study done on the area stated that it would have no impact and could hold more cars than the requested number of units. As for the fire danger concern, that was addressed by our very own elected Fire Chief, Gordy Hughs, and he also stated that it wouldn't impact their ability to handle any emergency services or a wildfire event. The Friends of Grant Creek concerns have been addressed accordingly and they should feel secure in the statements provided to them by professionals in their field.

Thank you for your time.

Jessica Bean