

City of Iona Newsletter

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VOLUME TEN

OCTOBER, 2016

Planning and Zoning Meeting: October 12, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting: October 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Work Meeting: October 18, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

People ask me where I get my stories and messages. I tell them that I have collected them over the years from people like you. If I know who the author is I will give them credit. My intention is not to try and pass them off as mine. If it is from me, I will say so. If you have a story you would like shared please send it to me or the City office.

Sincerely,

Mayor Brad Andersen

"Open Letter to Provo and Utah Residents"

Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me. Did your mother teach you this also? Did you grow up believing in this motto like it was an all-powerful shield against bullies and trolls? All my life I walked around with at least some sense of confidence that words couldn't hurt me.

I'm rubber, you're glue

Whatever you say

bounces off me

and sticks to you.

For the seven years I've been mayor I have certainly had my fair share of complaints. I've read some heated emails. I've been called a plethora of names (believe me, I understand that comes with the job) but for most of the time I have been blessed to be the recipient of kindness and goodwill. Even in the face of strong disagreement we have come together with civility to work out our differences. But recently I have noticed that the tide seems to be turning in public dialogue. Like a sewer leak deep beneath the surface, I feel a coarseness invading so many aspects of our lives. Even in our safe haven of Provo – a place known around the world for its kindness and concern of others.

For example, recently I received an email message from a citizen that ended with this line: "please ... let [this] be the issue that sinks the mayor and his ... awful arrogant deputy. Oh please oh please let them both be stripped of their clothing and carried out of the building ..."

Similar to this email, in the last month I've heard accusations and disparaging comments of a very different nature than previous public dialogue. Engagement on all platforms—from social media to civic meetings are more sarcastic, biting, impatient, rude, aggressive and often all too personal. In the years of being mayor, I can strongly say this surge of negativity is not normal for

our community.

So what's going on? I believe a majority of this comes from top down. Much of it has to do with the trickle-down effect of the conversation happening on the national stage. As we listen to those who have platforms as presidential candidates, we hear them use words that tend to be more cutting, more personal, more filled with spite.

The disparaging remarks in our own community are echoes of what we hear every single time we turn on the news, read the paper, or scroll through our Twitter timelines. It's almost always there when we engage in a presidential discussion. Name-calling, bigotry, hate, attacks. The leaders on our national stage insist on using more and more syllables to pollute the air with words that incite, provoke and demean.

Not only do we need to worry about Supreme Court nominations, the economy and war, we now need to worry about the impact of negativity. From what I'm seeing in the community it's as if the two candidates from the major political parties have issued us all a license to be rude without the thought of consequence.

I'm personally calling on our national leaders to understand how their contaminated actions and words seep into our local constituencies and how much we suffer because of it. I'm calling for a more civil discussion on issues like health care, immigration, national security, and jobs. We need them to take responsibility for changing the public discourse not only nationally but everywhere—in our states, cities, and homes.

I also call upon my fellow local elected leaders and residents to be that voice of civility. As a county, state, and community, we need more unity and less divide. If we can't expect decency from the top – let's start it from the bottom.

Despite what our well-intentioned mothers taught us, words do hurt. They hurt all of us. Although I've experienced years of decent discourse I worry those days are over. We have a lot to lose in this election, let's not lose our hearts as well.

Credit: John Curtis – Provo City Mayor

EVENTS

“Special City Council Meeting” – The City Council has called to order a Special City Council Meeting to be held on Thursday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located at 3548 N. Main St. to discuss moving forward with purchasing additional water rights for the future of Iona.

“Walk to School Day” – On October 5th please join us at the Iona Elementary School at 7:45 a.m. with students, families, and other community leaders in celebration of Walk to School Day! It is a great opportunity to show your support for child and youth pedestrian and bicyclist safety in our community. The school is serving breakfast to everyone that walks and would love to have you. For more information please visit www.walkbiketoschool.org.

“Trunk or Treat” – Fun for the whole family! The 7th Annual Trunk or Treat will be held at the Iona City Building on Monday, October 31, 2016 (Halloween) at 5:30 p.m. Doughnuts and hot chocolate will be provided by the City and prizes will be given away for the best decorated vehicles and costumes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

We are seeing an increased number of issues related to the city codes referenced below, please be mindful of the following. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chief Bowcutt

“Title 5, Chapter 5 – Games in Streets” – Any person who plays ball or any game in a public street, or who encourages, permits, or allows any minor to engage in such activities, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

“Title 5, Chapter 4 – Dog Control” – Any dog on a public, street, alley, sidewalk, park or place must be under the physical control of a person, either by leash, cord, or chain. Owner can be guilty of misdemeanor if found not to be in compliance with this code. Additionally, any person owning, keeping, or having in his or her immediate care or custody any dog shall knowingly

fail or neglect to clean up any feces of the dog immediately and dispose of it in a sanitary manner whenever the dog has defecated upon public or private property owned or within the control of another and without the consent of such public or private owner or person shall be punishable by a civil infraction of twenty dollars (\$20) for the first offense, forty dollars (\$40) for any infraction committed within six (6) months of a previous infraction or sixty dollars (\$60) if such offense is committed within six (6) months of two (2) previous infractions.

With school back in session, we are seeing an increased number of children riding their bikes to school and would like to share this resource from www.walkbiketoschool.org on tips for helping to ensure your children stay safe!



www.walkbiketoschool.org

Helping your child be a safe bicyclist

Bicycling is a fun and healthy way to spend time with your child and the best way to gauge your child's bicycling skills and judgment. Consider the following three steps before your child rides to school.

1. Do a bike and helmet check

- **Bike fit:** When sitting on the bike with feet on the pedals, there should be a slight bend in the knee when the pedal is closest to the ground.
- **Bike visibility:** The bike should have reflectors on the front, back, and both wheels. If riding when it's dark or nearly dark, there should also be lights on the front and back.
- **Helmet fit:** Take the helmet fit test (see sidebar).

2. Assess and build skills

If you don't already ride together regularly, take your child to a quiet parking lot or empty street to assess and teach basic skills. Children (and bicyclists of all ages) need to know how to do the following things:

- Wear brightly colored clothes and reflective gear, with helmet buckled, shoelaces tied and pant leg on the chain side tucked so it can't get caught.
- Make sure the tires have enough air, brakes and gears work, the chain isn't loose, and wheels and bolts are tight.
- Keep eyes and ears open.
- Watch for vehicles going in and out of driveways and alleys.
- Keep both hands on the handlebars except when signaling. Carry books and other items in a backpack or bag designed to fit on a bicycle.
- Stop before crossing the street, entering a road, or turning. Look left, right, left, and behind for traffic, including pedestrians, bicycles, and cars.

For riding in the street:

- Ride in the same direction as traffic (with the flow) in a single file.
- Ride to the right side of the road, but far enough from parked cars to avoid any car doors that suddenly open.
- Obey traffic laws. Follow all traffic signs, signals and lane markings.
- Be predictable. Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars. Use hand signals.

3. Plan the route and try it out

Work with your child to pick the route to school and practice riding the route together.

- Choose streets with minimal traffic and lower speeds, and look for routes where you can ride separate from traffic using a path or bicycle lane.
- Limit the number of street crossings, and avoid crossing busy or high-speed streets. Talk with your child about whether it's okay to ride alone, with friends, or only when an adult is on the ride. Children under age ten generally do not have the ability to manage traffic situations on their own, and may be safest riding on the sidewalk or a bike path. Some communities do not permit children to ride on the sidewalk, so check before making a decision.



Take the helmet fit test

Put your helmet flat on your head. If it moves when you shake your head, you need to tighten your helmet or get a smaller one. Check:



Eyes: The helmet should sit low on your forehead – two finger widths above your eyebrows.



Ears: With the helmet buckled, the straps should meet just below the ears.



Mouth: When buckled, you should be able to fit no more than two fingers between the buckle and chin.



Developed by the National Center for Safe Routes to School

of the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation