



Beverly Beaty-Benadom <beaty-benadomb@reno.gov>

1-10-18

Fwd: StoneGate development and police statistics.

1 message

F.1

Jenny Brekhus <brekhusj@reno.gov>

Tue, Jan 9, 2018 at 2:22 PM

To: Beverly Beaty-Benadom <Beaty-BenadomB@reno.gov>

Did this make it into the record?

JB

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Marko <justbeckmarko@gmail.com>**Date:** January 5, 2018 at 3:24:15 PM PST**To:** mckenziep@reno.gov, brekhusj@reno.gov, duerrn@reno.gov, delgadoo@reno.gov, jardonn@reno.gov**Subject:** StoneGate development and police statistics.

Dear Council members,

I am a citizen of Cold Springs and a proud wife of a Reno Police Officer. I am writing you today to voice my concern not just for my community but also the safety of our first responders in regards to the StoneGate development. There are many topics that make me against this development but I felt in my heart that I needed to write about the one that hits closest to home, our police.

The Reno Police staffing levels have still not recovered from the recession. Back in 1991, Reno Police had 315 sworn officers, and the population was only 141,218. In 2016, the staffing levels were 317 and the population was 245,255. That is a 104,037 difference. We have watched substations get closed down, we have watched layoffs, and we have watched crime increase.

The national average staffing levels of police for a city our size is 18.7 officers per 10,000 citizens. In 2016, Reno police was only 12.7 officers per 10,000. To get our city up to the national average, we would need to hire 141 new officers, as well as enough to cover all of the upcoming retirements and the population growth. In October 2016, Mayor Schieve was quoted saying "That's not acceptable," in response to Chief Soto speaking of the understaffed police department. "The city has 317 positions, with 295 officers patrolling 110 square miles seven days a week." The StoneGate development will spread the patrol area mileage even further out of the city's core. It will also add a large population of citizens in an area that only has one paved way in and out. It is quoted in the Cold Springs Master plan on page 20 "CS.3.8.2 Emergency response times to the Cold Springs Valley can be compromised when the Dry Lake Summit pass on U.S. 395 is closed (e.g. from a traffic accident)". That could be an officer may not get back up or they can't get to a victim in time.

Our police officers are already stretched so very thin. It breaks my heart that if development is approved, I will know that the city council is not concerned about the safety and well being of not just their citizens but also their first responders that put their lives on the lines for THEIR city.

When reading the agenda packet for the upcoming meeting, I read the staff comment about the

project creating a tax deficit in 10 years and all I can do is think back to 2011, when my family had to think up of back up plans because we did not know if my husband would have a job in the coming months because of the budget cuts. Going into this project with an already grossly understaffed department and the knowledge of a budget deficit, is negligent. So, please, vote against StoneGate.

Thank you for reading and taking these feelings into considerations,

Rebecca Marko

Information above came from these links

<http://www.governing.com/gov-data/safety-justice/police-officers-per-capita-rates-employment-for-city-departments.html>

<http://thisisreno.com/2016/10/budget-update-reno-police-stressed-resources/>

https://www.washoecounty.us/csd/planning_and_development/master-plan-zoning/files/cold_springs_area_plan.pdf

The opinions stated here are my own and not those of my husband.