

**From:** [Heidi Behrens-Benedict](#)  
**To:** [PlanningCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Public testimony ~ Trees for Livability.  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 7:45:04 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!]** Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

Dear Ms. Johnson ~

This afternoon I signed up to speak to the Planning Commission. Was not successful. Here's what I would have said.

Hi, my name is Heidi Behrens-Benedict. I am a volunteer with Trees for Livability. As you know our focus for the Bellevue Planning Commission is to:

- **Require a permit** for every Significant or Landmark Tree removal.
- **Enforce minimum tree density requirements** for residential lots, to preserve and enhance the tree canopy.
- **Carry forward the history of tree protection** or removals with the land and not reset with each new owner
- **Use only licensed arborists** to confirm removal of unhealthy or hazardous trees and select appropriate tree replacement.
- **Enable easy public reporting** by setting up a tip line and website with clear information.
- **Start an Urban Forestry Commission** including community members to compile detailed recommendations.

This is personal for me. I bought my 1958 Lake Hills home in 1972. Needless to say there have been lots of changes to Lake Hills in the last 70 years. My property is still densely forested. Thanks to that tree canopy, my yard is shady and my home is cool in the summer.

One of my favorite things about the mature trees in my neighborhood is the way trees are shaped by traffic. Over the years, these trees form a lovely arch over the roadway. From cars to trucks to pushing a baby carriage or teaching your child to ride a bike, these old beautiful trees feel like friendly neighbors. We know them and love them.

A couple of years ago, a very large piece of property was sold near me and 6 houses were approved for the land. The resulting construction removed over 90% of the trees but the one I miss the most wasn't even in the way of the developers. It was on the corner of the big lot so we thought it would be saved. It wasn't.

And reading that the City would protect specimen trees turned out not to be true.

Sadly enough, the six houses have the minimum set back of about 5 feet. So the children living in these \$3M homes are playing in the street. The lovely old tree is gone and the

City required "Nature set-asides" are a joke.

We need a Planning Commission that cares about trees in our lives and protects our neighborhoods from contactors who build every inch.

We look forward to working with you to update and strengthen Bellevue's tree codes. Thank you for your time.

Best regards ~

Heidi

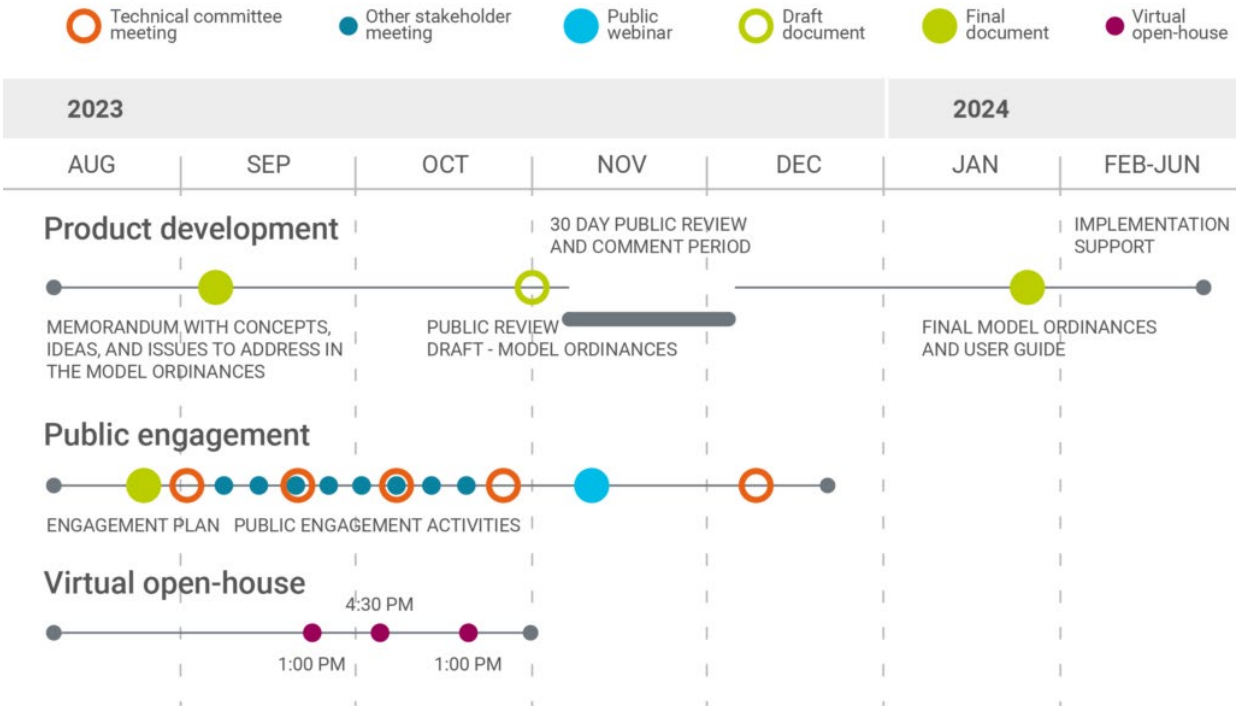
**Heidi Behrens-Benedict**  
1844 140th Avenue Southeast  
Bellevue WA 98005

206-412-0610

**From:** [p.johnston](#)  
**To:** [PlanningCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Planning for Middle Housing - Washington State Department of Commerce  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 8:22:16 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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See info on Commerce’s work for HB1110 at <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/growth-management-topics/planning-for-middle-housing/>



**From:** [p.johnston](#)  
**To:** [PlanningCommission](#); [Comp Plan 2044](#)  
**Subject:** in every neighborhood  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 8:32:25 PM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!]** Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

1. Not that the attainable seems like it has some control of the market.
2. I thought that Neighborhood was a term that was trying to be avoided or taking on new meaning
3. Take an idea from Parks, the goal should be a types of housing well spread out
4. How are you going to accomplish every level in Somerset?
5. Please be clear about allowing vs creating

Cordially,

*-pamela johnston*

 425-881-3301

**From:** [p\\_johnston](#)  
**To:** [PlanningCommission](#)  
**Subject:** Survey Appedix  
**Date:** Friday, October 27, 2023 10:15:30 AM

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!]** Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

RE: Survey <https://bellevue.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12383710&GUID=33ED76AF-0C94-4BAF-B0DA-4FD0DAA988D9>  
<https://app.displayr.com/Dashboard?id=0a4ca35d-f8d4-41c2-9341-1d49fc4811b1#page=25688d1a-57de-473a-a369-104b799a999e>

Compare

**RE: Appendix II**

Respondents who supported new housing development in general, but did not support new housing development in their neighborhood were asked an open-ended follow-up question where they could share their thoughts about where new housing development would be appropriate. 35% of respondents had this particular attitude towards development (support development elsewhere).

Text	whereDevelop
7	I think Bellevue is doing a good job preserving its one house per lot neighborhoods and introducing denser housing in dedicated spaces. I think Bellevue should continue to preserve its one house per lot neighborhoods and introduce denser housing elsewhere
20	City. School in walking distance.
25	where the infrastructure is best. Bus lines, rail and larger streets/ access to freeways
27	Downtown area
29	I like the idea of increased housing density in the Spring district and streets that are in the downtown CORE.
58	Downtown and city center
82	Where the roads will support the additional traffic.
93	Along the main corridors: Bellevue Way, Northrup, Springhill district, 148th, etc
100	Ones already near businesses and rail lines.
130	Close to transit options - along the light rail
138	More centered around accessible transit
142	preserve established single-home neighborhoods (with perhaps increased permission for ADUs); increase density everywhere else
148	CORE downtown area. Suburban areas should remain less dense (but affordable).
173	Areas within the city more

177	Every part of Bellevue should have a few townhomes and condominiums. Apartments are best for <b>downtown</b> as they bring a lot of cars. Not safe for families walking around.
184	The <b>downtown</b> area and parts of <b>Crossroads</b> that are close to I90. Also the part of Robinswood close to I90.
200	Neighborhoods that have <b>the street infrastructure, proximity to public transportation</b> . Relative to the Forest Drive Corridor, this implies Newport Hills, Factoria and parts of <b>Crossroads</b> where street infrastructure might support higher density with the accompanying traffic. I question whether the Forest Park developments and Somerset hillside could ecologically, hydrologically and existing street network could support higher density development than what is currently in place
209	<b>Downtown</b> , areas bordering main thoroughfares or right on them.
214	Northern
222	<b>Crossroads</b> <b>downtown</b> along 148th and 8th street
239	areas closer to <b>downtown</b> and <b>crossroads</b> .
247	Areas near public transportation
249	Anything near light rail
257	Areas near <b>downtown</b> , within easy public commute (or walk/ride) from major employers
266	the parts closer to <b>downtown</b> Bellevue which have easiest access to businesses, services, transportation
271	The areas that already are receiving it, <b>DT</b> , <b>Bel-red</b> . Makes sense to re-develop surface strip malls where beneficial.
276	<b>Crossroads</b> , overlake, near Bellevue college, <b>crossroads</b> , factoria, <b>Downtown</b> , Spring district, College Hill, Phantom Lake, <b>Bel-red</b> corridor, Overlake
287	<b>red</b> corridor, Overlake
292	<b>Downtown</b>
318	Don't know. Easier to say which parts should have DECREASED housing density, e.g., ALL of downtown Bellevue
323	Those that are already commercial. Such as down town...factoria. Housing density using apartments and condominiums in the urban <b>CORE</b> . Housing density in established residential areas using duplexes/triplex.
332	<b>Downtown</b> , Bed-Red areas
333	The <b>CBD</b> but not adjacent neighborhoods, and those neighborhoods walkable to light rail or other rapid <b>transit</b> .
339	<b>Downtown</b> and spreading out gradually from <b>downtown</b> .
343	<b>Downtown</b> , spring district, <b>crossroads</b> , lake hills, factoria
360	<b>Downtown</b> , <b>spring district</b> , <b>crossroads</b> , lake hills, factoria
361	Apartments/condominiums near freeways and busy roads
362	<b>Crossroads</b> , <b>Bel-red</b> , West Bellevue, northwest Bellevue
365	<b>Downtown</b>
396	<b>CORE</b> areas like <b>downtown</b> or where there is more commercial activity and good <b>transit</b> and good rules on affordable housing. No one wants it to look junky
402	Where we can <b>have appropriate infrastructure</b>
415	<b>Downtown</b> area and expanding from there
425	Areas that have businesses so that people who live in higher density areas can walk so traffic impacts are minimized
	<b>Underdeveloped areas</b> , or areas more easily adaptable. Existing

427	neighborhoods such as Lake Hills, East Bellevue, Newport Hills, etc. are already established as single-family residential.
435	OVERLAKE PARK AREA AND DOWN TOWN BELLEVUE
449	<b>downtown</b> and business <b>corridors</b>
458	Areas that have infrastructure to support that density (including public transportation) Apartments/Condos: <b>Crossroads</b> , <b>Bel-red</b> corridor, Northup corridor, <b>downtown</b> , <b>Spring district</b> , probably other more commercial areas I am not as familiar with. Duplexes/Townhouses: Perimeter of single family neighborhoods where quiet residential streets give way to medium level arterials, like 156th Ave between SE 16th and NE 8th; outskirts of <b>downtown</b> , closer to Main Street area.
462	Areas directly in existing commercial areas. NOT in residential, single-family neighborhoods. Also NOT in natural areas or near natural areas such as parks, woods, near creeks, etc.
464	<b>Urban center</b> , near the <b>downtown</b> area with amenities. Do not subdivide single family home properties and change zoning in the smaller, tree covered, neighborhoods.
484	
492	<b>Downtown</b> Bellevue, <b>Crossroad</b> , This that currently have higher density. <b>Downtown</b> Factoria
511	<b>crossroads</b> Overlake
523	lake hills / <b>crossroads</b>
524	<b>Crossroads</b> , <b>Spring district</b> , Overlake
529	<b>Downtown</b> , Newport hills, <b>crossroads</b> , lake hills
533	<b>Downtown</b> , East Bellevue, South Bellevue, Factoria, Lake Hills. those areas that have multiple family housing already. replace one and two level condos/apts with taller ones. keep the large suburban/residential neighborhoods with single family homes intact and enforce zoning restrictions. Stop allowing McMansions on tiny lots
538	
551	increase density closest to public transportation and commercial areas that are walkable for those in multi-family buildings
552	<b>downtown</b> Bellevue
562	<b>Downtown</b> and pockets near mass <b>transit</b>
564	<b>Downtown</b> area The parts near <b>downtown</b> and near <b>transit</b> like the bus station and the train station could increase density. Also, areas where there is a little open land can increase density.
566	
579	<b>Downtown</b> Bellevue and other neighbors that are already dense. I think the issue is less about types of housing and more about scale of housing. Lake Hills is full of larger lots and smaller Mid-Century houses. Because the value of the property is only in the land not the building, the aesthetic of Lake Hills is being ruined by these hideous builder-burgers. Seeing the condos and apartments going up in Cross Roads, Bell-Red road and the wholesale destruction of Lake Hills makes me wonder if we don't need a design review board. So this is less about NIMBY and more about aesthetics. Every time I turn the corner on to my used-to-be darling little dead end street and see children playing in the street in front of their parents \$3M monstrosity, I just lose hope.
588	
590	<b>Downtown</b> and <b>spring district</b>

592 Spring district, downtown, around Overlake hospital

596 Factoria and Overlake

I'm not opposed to density growth along transport corridors. That said, the building of towers that look into towers doesn't make Bellevue more attractive. Green corridors and parks should meander through towers. If you stack people together, they need outdoor green space interconnecting. Public transport shouldn't just serve the 9-5 workers. I've always wanted to commute by bus/train. It isn't efficient or safe due to shift work. Reducing the need for personnel vehicles would help the city. You increase density, but people still drive cars and the city is more congested.

605 I think residents that own an acre of more should be able to divide their land into 2-4 single family lots to provide more single family homes. Especially if sewer, water and utilities are available. I feel like this could be a better option than some higher density options.

614

617 Lake Hill and Madina, Clyde hill area

655 Within 15 min walk of the transit center.

Areas adjacent to high capacity transit corridors and commercial areas.

658

Near transit and any newly developed areas. Current residential neighborhoods should remain fixed as they are provided they are functioning well.

660

More housing should be downtown, but no apartments on the other side of the interstate

664

Those next to mass transit terminals, in an effort to cut down on additional vehicles on roads, parking, etc.

667

669 The city. Near malls and businesses.

671

Areas that already have condos/apartments.

Rosehill from 405 to Redmond, Lake Hills & north to city limit east of 520, west of 140th between NE 8th & SE 8th, Overlake.

688

697 Around downtown and mini-downtowns like Crossroads.

Areas that include small and large businesses already. Maintaining the charm and design of our mid-century neighborhoods, but adding density, like apartments above businesses, in areas that are mixed development.

701

709 Downtown area and new developing areas

The areas that are already building commercial and residential towers. There are lots of towers being built and planned for downtown Bellevue. In fact, we went from very few residential towers to many, many more in just a few years. As I mentioned before, we already have medium to large-scale businesses and residential towers that have been built - and planned to be built - within a 3-minute walk from our neighborhood. In fact, there are more than 10 TOWERS planned!!! Also, the areas outside the downtown CORE that are close to the light rail.

728

729 Downtown and areas near the downtown sector.

731

Downtown and hubs like Crossroads

745

Downtown

The places that are already semi-dense--downtown, the Spring district, other areas like Crossroads or Richards Road or Factoria Blvd



	that have a lot of apartment complexes. I don't think it makes sense to increase density in areas that are currently zoned for single family only.
766	
767	Near the city center
	Wilburton, Crossroads, Factoria, Spring district, Crossroads, Bel-red,
777	Norwood,
779	Downtown, crossroad etc.
784	Bel-red corridor, Sound Transit access corridor.
811	Closer to downtown
821	I don't know .
829	Major business area.
844	North side
846	Areas near shopping districts
	The CORE centers like Downtown, Crossroads, Factoria, near the current industrial and business corridors.
849	
862	Downtown, urban CORE.
	Our neighborhood has the most affordable housing in Bellevue, I believe. I'd like to see it more evenly spread so that "preferred" locations like west Bellevue (!) had some. Even so I'd be supportive of ADUs or shared housing in my neighborhood.
874	
883	Within 2 miles of Downtown
	Areas with a business CORE of grocery stores, restaurants and services businesses
887	
899	Areas where infrastructure/transportation can support increase in population easily. Also, affordable housing for families with children. It's not about the housing density, it's about the services and amenities that come with it. If you add houses, add also cute little shops and cafes that are inviting - not strip malls that have to be driven to and look like parking lots. Make the area livable and warm. have places where people can meet and interact, and make it a human-scale environment, not cold and indifferent. mix houses and businesses (think European cities)
905	
	Downtown and public transportation hubs to prevent traffic congestion
907	
913	Central district
914	Downtown Bellevue
915	Downtown Bellevue and along Crossroads Way.
928	BelRed area
	light rail and bus lines. schools nearby. small business, grocers and restaurants within a moderate walk.
930	
	The best place to increase housing density is along the transit corridors such as the new light rail line. For example, the recent development of the BelRed area is consistent with this.
973	
982	在未開發的地方建設高密度的中低價位基金公寓。
988	uncertain
	Where the market bears it. It is already increasing in population density. I see many neighbors with out-of-country (grand)-parents moving in. I see extended family/friends moving in/renting(?) to attend local school.
989	
991	Downtown, Crossroads, Factoria
	Areas near public transportation (preferably transit centers) and

	adequate road access for cars. Residential neighborhoods that are in the hills, with narrow windy streets, and that are half a mile or more from a bus stop don't make sense for high-density buildings.
993	
994	I think there is way too many apartments but there needs to be some rent control. More apartments on I-90 corridor towards <b>Crossroads</b> NOT in S Bellevue where I live (on SE 6th St)! Not sure about the rest of Bellevue; maybe <b>Crossroads</b> and beyond. Increased density means more car traffic and more tree-cutting, which I and everyone I know strongly oppose!
997	areas that can be accessed by fast automobile traffic, along Bellevue Way, <b>Bel-red</b> corridor, R-520, <b>Crossroads</b>
998	
1004	<b>downtown</b>
1006	<b>Crossroads</b> , <b>downtown</b> , and Wilberton and Belred, Overlake
1025	The suburbs
1038	places in freeway buisnes areas
1039	no idea
1040	the closer to <b>downtown</b> arond b line arond corsroads.
1043	North east Bellevue
1059	dont know.
1069	down town
	It feels like Bellevue already has quite a bit of housing density. I'm not sure where would need more. Especially the <b>downtown</b> area. It feels like there is now too much emphasis on high rise condos. It takes away some of the charm of our city.
1078	
1087	Not <b>downtown</b> .
1092	I'm not sure.
1096	Areas outside the <b>downtown CORP</b> , which is already quite dense
1106	I am in the suburbs and feel areas closer to the city would benefit more from increased housing density. <b>downtown</b> and the parts of Bellevue that are or will soon be served by frequent mass <b>transit</b> . N.B. I do not support "increased housing, including townhomes, apartments and condominiums, throughout Bellevue" only because my neighborhood, Newport Hills, was built as a planned community and already has a balanced mix of such housing types.
1125	
1137	<b>Downtown</b> Bellevue <b>Downtown</b> , <b>Bel-red</b> , <b>Factoria</b> , and <b>Wilburton Commercial</b> Area.
1213	That's it!
1236	98004,98005

**From:** [VERNON\\_SCHRAG](#)  
**To:** [PlanningCommission](#)  
**Cc:** [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** 10-29-23 Fwd: GUN SAFETY Bellevue Planning Commissioners Mtg 5-10-2023 PUBLIC RECORD  
**Date:** Sunday, October 29, 2023 9:39:47 AM

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!]** Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

Dear Volunteer Planning Commissioners: **info cy: BELLEVUE Mayor + City Staff**  
Six Months ago I met with all of you (virtual public comment) to urge your timely action on VISION ZERO GUN SAFETY BY 2035. But you never responded. ... Nothing was done. **FOR PUBLIC RECORD**

Let's try again, one more time. ... In November I'll present formal complaints about Planning Commissioners to Bellevue City Council during their public TV hearings. **Recently City of Bellevue sponsored a big public event at Meydenbauer Center** to inform businesses and the public about Threats related to Gun Violence. Also an ALL DAY session at the Hyatt Downtown on these same gun violence issues facing citizens, schools and neighborhoods. ... Now what??

Please tell our Mayor right away what you intend to do re: your civic duty as requested in May; verbally and in writing to **Planning Commissioners six (6) months ago.**

**Vision Zero for Gun Safety Threshold Approval application** is on your table for decision. Review formal application **one-page summary**.

- Planning Commissioners conducted a Review of the SAME PROPOSAL over 3 years ago. BUT after my seven (7) minutes allowed to speak with them, it was rejected? ... (does that make sense to any of you??). Firearms Violence has escalated by 30% since that time, in just 3 years!
- Get help you need, information you need with data to carry out your role in our City plus **SAVING LIVES** in Bellevue, Eastside cities schools and neighborhoods.
- **WA Attorney General Deputy Solicitor General** provided Bellevue information on how to learn and get data about GUN VIOLENCE. Department of Commerce has **provided Bellevue Staff a website** to help you out. Re: **OFFICE OF FIREARMS SAFETY & VIOLENCE**. **Please study it carefully and take action.**

Public Safety Matters! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vernon Dwight Schrag

Downtown Bellevue Resident

Gun Safety Advocate for Eastside Cities

**Info Copy provided to Moms Demand Action Bellevue & Eastside**

----- Original Message -----

From: VERNON SCHRAG <dwights30@comcast.net>  
To: "PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov"  
<PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov>, "citymanager@bellevuewa.gov"  
<citymanager@bellevuewa.gov>, "CityAttorney@Bellevuewa.gov"  
<CityAttorney@Bellevuewa.gov>  
Cc: Council Coordinators <Councilcoordinators@bellevuewa.gov>,  
"eaking@bellevuewa.gov" <eaking@bellevuewa.gov>  
Date: 05/11/2023 7:36 AM PDT  
Subject: GUN SAFETY Bellevue Planning Commissioners Mtg 5-10-2023  
PUBLIC RECORD

Dear Planning Commissioners & City Staff Leaders: **PUBLIC RECORD**  
I was able to brief you for a couple minutes last night about **Gun Safety and Gun Violence in City of Bellevue.** Councilmember Robertson was also there, in the room. **To reiterate:**

1. Vision Zero for Gun Safety Threshold Approval Requests and application is on your table for decision. Review the **one-page** summary, ... soon please.
2. Planning Commissioners conducted a Review of the SAME PROPOSAL over 3 years ago. BUT after my seven (7) minutes allowed to speak with them, it was rejected? ... (does that make sense to any of you??)
3. Firearms Violence has escalated by 30% since that time, in just 3 years!
4. I want to help you get information you need with data to carry out your role in **SAVING LIVES** in Bellevue and Eastside cities/neighborhoods.
5. **WA Attorney General Deputy Solicitor General** provided you information on how to learn and get data about GUN VIOLENCE. Department of Commerce has **provided Bellevue a website** to help you out. Re: **OFFICE OF FIREARMS SAFETY & VIOLENCE.** Please study it carefully and take action.
6. Other Eastside King County cities are moving forward. Not Bellevue. Why?
7. City of Bellevue leadership has a terrible history of biases in support of NRA.
8. Let Bellevue voters/residents and other Eastside cities tell you the truth. They are ready to give you lots of guidance about **URGENT NEED FOR ACTION.**
9. Bellevue Mayor, City Manager and City Council plus Bellevue

Attorney have information in their hands to **ACT NOW**. **Planning Commissioners** must act.

10. Formal Letter Request for **Threshold Review of Vision Zero Gun Safety** was provided to Thara Johnson on **May 10, 2023**. You should read it, discuss matters and **let me know what additional data/facts or other info needed**.

**cc: Brad Miyake, City Attorney and Councilmember Robertson/Staff**

Thank you for taking time last night in your busy schedule to listen and learn about Gun Safety. All the important volunteer-work you do every week is appreciated.

You spend so many months every year 2022-2023 reviewing policy on trees/shrubs, sidewalks and Wilburton area items. You accept hundreds of recommendations in dozens of hearings about the sidewalks, trees etc etc. You allow impacted Residents, businesses and voters to give you info.

But **none of that counts or matters** to those people who may be murdered or shot in gun violence in Bellevue. Children especially are extremely vulnerable. Some of you may have children or grandchildren of your own. Think of their safety.

Lets work together now. You can do it. Move ahead please. Be accountable for your actions. Do your best as Planning Commissioners to keep ALL OF US SAFE! Public Safety is **JOB #1**. ... **NOT** sidewalks or trees!!

Thank you.

Vernon Dwight Schrag

Downtown Bellevue Resident

Gun Safety Advocate for Eastside Cities

**Info Copy provided to Moms Demand Action Bellevue & Eastside**

**From:** [VERNON SCHRAG](#)  
**To:** [PlanningCommission](#); [cityclerk](#)  
**Subject:** RECORD FILE Fwd: 10-29-23 Fwd: GUN SAFETY Bellevue Planning Commissioners Mtg 5-10-2023 PUBLIC RECORD  
**Date:** Monday, October 30, 2023 12:27:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSIONERS10-29-2023DS.pdf](#)

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL Notice!]** Outside communication is important to us. Be cautious of phishing attempts. Do not click or open suspicious links or attachments.

Dear Commissioners: Oopss! Sorry I forgot to attach doc attached for your reading. Hoping you will take time to read both pages. PUBLIC RECORD FILE Lots to learn and internalize with all these daily mass shootings and murders of children occurring. Do your best to make a difference in City Planning. Please act for sake of Public Safety and honest governance of City Planning.

ALSO - Please read/carefully review "**City of Bellevue Proclamation**" signed by Mayor Lynne Robinson on Behalf of its City Council with 5 "whereas's" and a ... **"now therefore" do hereby proclaim firearm safety an ongoing matter of high importance, ... We encourage all residents, etc etc etc"**.

Let's get this done for future lives for residents, families and voters and children of Bellevue. For lives of business workers, schools and visitors too. Thanks.

Vernon Dwight Schrag  
Downtown Bellevue Resident  
1106 108th Ave NE  
98004  
Gun Safety Advocate for Eastside Cities & March For Our Lives

----- Original Message -----

From: VERNON SCHRAG <[dwights30@comcast.net](mailto:dwrights30@comcast.net)>  
To: "[PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov)"  
<[PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:PlanningCommission@bellevuewa.gov)>  
Cc: "[cityclerk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@bellevuewa.gov)" <[cityclerk@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@bellevuewa.gov)>  
Date: 10/29/2023 9:39 AM PDT  
Subject: 10-29-23 Fwd: GUN SAFETY Bellevue Planning Commissioners Mtg 5-10-2023 PUBLIC RECORD

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related to Gun Violence. Also an ALL DAY session at the Hyatt Downtown on these same gun violence issues facing citizens, schools and neighborhoods. ... Now what??

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Sincerely,

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"citymanager@bellevuewa.gov" <citymanager@bellevuewa.gov>,

"CityAttorney@Bellevuewa.gov" <CityAttorney@Bellevuewa.gov>

Cc: Council Coordinators <Councilcoordinators@bellevuewa.gov>,

"eaking@bellevuewa.gov" <eaking@bellevuewa.gov>

Date: 05/11/2023 7:36 AM PDT

Subject: GUN SAFETY Bellevue Planning Commissioners Mtg 5-10-2023 PUBLIC RECORD

Dear Planning Commissioners & City Staff Leaders: **PUBLIC RECORD**

I was able to brief you for a couple minutes last night about

## **Gun Safety and Gun Violence in City of Bellevue.**

Councilmember Robertson was also there, in the room. **To reiterate:**

1. Vision Zero for Gun Safety Threshold Approval Requests and application is on your table for decision. Review the **one-page** summary, ... soon please.
2. Planning Commissioners conducted a Review of the SAME PROPOSAL over 3 years ago. BUT after my seven (7) minutes allowed to speak with them, it was rejected? ... (does that make sense to any of you??)
3. Firearms Violence has escalated by 30% since that time, in just 3 years!
4. I want to help you get information you need with data to carry out your role in **SAVING LIVES** in Bellevue and Eastside cities/neighborhoods.
5. **WA Attorney General Deputy Solicitor General** provided you information on how to learn and get data about GUN VIOLENCE. Department of Commerce has **provided Bellevue a website** to help you out. Re: **OFFICE OF FIREARMS SAFETY & VIOLENCE.** Please study it carefully and take action.
6. Other Eastside King County cities are moving forward. Not Bellevue. Why?
7. City of Bellevue leadership has a terrible history of biases in support of NRA.
8. Let Bellevue voters/residents and other Eastside cities tell you the truth. They are ready to give you lots of guidance about **URGENT NEED FOR ACTION.**
9. Bellevue Mayor, City Manager and City Council plus Bellevue Attorney have information in their hands to **ACT NOW.** **Planning Commissioners** must act.
10. Formal Letter Request for **Threshold Review of Vision Zero Gun Safety** was provided to Thara Johnson on **May 10, 2023.** You should read it, discuss matters and **let me know what additional data/facts or other info needed.**

**cc: Brad Miyake, City Attorney and Councilmember**



**Robertson/Staff**

Thank you for taking time last night in your busy schedule to listen and learn about Gun Safety. All the important volunteer-work you do every week is appreciated.

You spend so many months every year 2022-2023 reviewing policy on trees/shrubs, sidewalks and Wilburton area items.

You accept hundreds of recommendations in dozens of hearings about the sidewalks, trees etc etc. You allow impacted Residents, businesses and voters to give you info.

But **none of that counts or matters** to those people who may be murdered or shot in gun violence in Bellevue. Children especially are extremely vulnerable. Some of you may have children or grandchildren of your own. Think of their safety.

Lets work together now. You can do it. Move ahead please.

Be accountable for your actions. Do your best as Planning Commissioners to keep ALL OF US SAFE! Public Safety is

**JOB #1**. ... **NOT** sidewalks or trees!!

Thank you.

Vernon Dwight Schrag

Downtown Bellevue Resident

Gun Safety Advocate for Eastside Cities

**Info Copy provided to Moms Demand Action Bellevue & Eastside**

# SUBMITTAL TO BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSIONERS

**ALLIANCE**  
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY

**PUBLIC RECORD DOCUMENT**  
**Vernon Schrag Submittal 10-30-2023**

**Attn: Required Reading for Bellevue Planning Commissioners  
& CITY OF BELLEVUE STAFF  
Pending Approvals for VISION ZERO GUN SAFETY BY 2035**

## FROM ONE MOTHERLESS DAUGHTER TO ANOTHER

The pain of losing a parent is not something that gets easier. I heard those words bravely spoken by Jenna in the Oregon courthouse yesterday afternoon during the Measure 114 trial. **Attn: CITY OF BELLEVUE STAFF - VISION ZERO GUN SAFETY BY 2035**



**Attn: Required Reading for Bellevue Planning Commissioners  
& CITY OF BELLEVUE STAFF  
Pending Approvals for VISION ZERO GUN SAFETY BY 2035**

IN COURT, JENNA STATED, "I HOPE THAT BY SHARING MY PERSONAL STORY TODAY, I CAN HELP THE COURT UNDERSTAND A LITTLE BIT BETTER ABOUT WHY THIS LAW WAS ENACTED IN THE FIRST PLACE."

## **SUBMITTAL TO BELLEVUE PLANNING COMMISSIONERS**

**Gun violence is a preventable epidemic and one we can end, with your support.**

**Attn: Required Reading for Bellevue Planning Commissioners  
& CITY OF BELLEVUE STAFF**

**Pending Approvals for VISION ZERO GUN SAFETY BY 2035**

Jenna Longenecker and I had never met prior to hearing her testimony. But the pain we both experience on a daily basis from the death of our mothers is close to indescribable.

*There's a bond to this grief. You wouldn't wish it on anyone. But when you find someone who feels the level of sorrow that you feel, you can't help but clutch on tight.*

Jenna was barely out of college, working her first full-time job when she heard the news that there had been a shooting at Clackamas Town Center in Oregon. She called her mom to make sure she was okay. She called her mom repeatedly over the course of that afternoon. She continued calling to check in. To look for her.

That evening, officers told Jenna that her mother had been killed by an AR-15. Jenna kept saying, "Where's my mom?" In that courtroom yesterday, my body went cold remembering how I'd said nearly the same words regarding my own mother's death.

**Attn: Required Reading for Bellevue Planning Commissioners  
& CITY OF BELLEVUE STAFF**

**Pending Approvals for VISION ZERO GUN SAFETY BY 2035**

Except, I didn't have to retrieve my mother's car from the mall parking lot or decide if I wanted her name and photo released to the public. I didn't have a similar horror story play out just years later with my father.

Jenna was at work when she found out no one was able to get ahold of her dad. Hours later, the Sheriff's Department asked to see her in person. She knew what that meant. Her father was dead. "The police only ask to see you in person when they want to deliver the news that someone has died or been killed."

Jenna's father died by firearm suicide. He'd struggled with his mental health and the added precautions ensured by Measure 114 could have saved her father's life.