

From: (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy
To: Mayor Garner; tburroughs@wycokck.org; Melissa Bynum; Gayle E. Townsend; Andrew Davis; Mike Kane; cramirez@wycokck.org; cestites@wycokck.org; wjburns@wycokck.org; Evelyn Hill; pjlopez@wycokck.org; David Johnston
Cc: LaVert Murray; koakman@kckspd.org; Sabin Evans; Patrick J. Holton; Kayla J. Hower
Subject: NE Area Environmental Health Concerns
Date: Monday, May 13, 2024 9:29:30 AM

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May 13, 2024

Dear Mayor Tyrone Garner, Commissioners, and County Administrator David Johnston,

We are writing to urgently highlight the critical environmental issues plaguing the (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy neighborhood, the (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy, and the surrounding communities. The lack of code enforcement, correct zoning, and urban planning has been a persistent problem for several years, and it is high time we address these issues.

First, we want to address the problems near (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy. Auto repair shops and other businesses have **hundreds** of illegally dumped tires. Abandoned tires pose a significant threat to our environment. They create eyesores and leach harmful chemicals into the soil and water, impacting human and animal health conditions. If tires were to burn, they would release hazardous chemicals polluting area air quality.

One of the most pressing issues is the presence of parked junk vehicles on some of these same properties. These vehicles, many of which have been abandoned for an extended period, are an eyesore and a significant source of pollution. They often leak oil, antifreeze, and other hazardous substances, contaminating the soil and threatening our nearby water sources, endangering our community's health and well-being.

We have shared with our local community officer the problem with numerous cars parked along (b) (6) Privacy at auto repair shops, making it difficult for drivers to see oncoming vehicles while exiting onto the main street. We appreciate our community officer because he works hard to have vehicles tagged and removed. Some business owners are known for being repeat offenders by allowing cars to park in the exact same location. However, we are slowly seeing some changes with parking due to our community officer's efforts.

Second, we have been dealing with contaminated lake water at Big Eleven Lake. Our local lake, which should be a valuable natural resource, is polluted. This affects aquatic life, recreational activities, and the overall well-being of our community. A few years ago, we had residents assist in gathering water samples for the EPA, but there was no follow-up. Unified Government (UG) staff have held community meetings, but changing the lake's appearance and the surrounding area seems most important to them for attracting new residents. Staff show little concern and respect for the current residents and the unhoused in the area, who are potentially catching contaminated fish. Occasionally, they will post signage around the lake informing people of algae bloom issues or suggestions for preparing fish for consumption. Residents have complained about feces from the presence of geese. Geese manure can intensify algae blooms, depleting oxygen levels in the water. Geese waste can carry pathogens, parasites, and diseases. These contaminants can run off into the water, further contaminating it.

To emphasize the urgency of these issues, I have included the link to a video ((b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy) showing the conditions near residential neighborhoods. The visual evidence highlights the severity of the situation regarding the illegal dumping of tires, junk cars, and other vehicles at the repair shops, underscoring the need for immediate action.

As community members, we rely on our elected officials to safeguard our environment and protect our

quality of life. We urge you, as our elected representatives, to take the following steps:

1. **Enforce Anti-Dumping Laws:** Strengthen enforcement against illegal dumping by increasing fines and implementing regular inspections.
2. **Remove Abandoned Vehicles:** Develop a plan to remove parked junk cars promptly. Encourage recycling and proper disposal of automotive waste.
3. **Planning & Zoning:** There are too many auto repair shops within a one-mile radius of (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy, the (b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy, and other surrounding neighborhoods. Properly evaluate plans and zoning for environmental and safety criteria.
4. **Big Eleven Lake Water Quality Improvements:** Start implementing sound engineering plans to adequately address the contamination and drainage of the lake with pollution prevention measures at the forefront. Plans that should be already available, but with residents' concerns made a top priority in addressing focused restoration in maintaining the lake's health.

Our collective efforts, when combined with your leadership, can make a significant impact. Addressing these environmental challenges cannot only create a safer and cleaner community but also pave the way for a more sustainable future for our current and future generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Your potential steps to address these concerns are highly valued and we look forward to hearing about them.

Sincerely,

(b) (6) Privacy, (b) (7)(C) Enf.Privacy

President

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