

Glenda and Robert Williams
2627 Skyline Drive
Rapid City, SD 57701
April 2, 2019

City of Rapid City
Community Planning & Development Services
Current Planning Division
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: 19PD008

Dear City of Rapid City:

We were notified that the City of Rapid City Parks and Recreation Department has applied for a major amendment to a planned development overlay to allow an accessory structure to be built on the lot that is adjacent to our property at 2627 Skyline Drive.

While we understand that this area has a beautiful view of the Black Hills and Rapid City, we would like you to be aware of some of our concerns about having an expansion of the current "Stone Wall Overlook" area and Skyline Wilderness Area that is already in this location.

The Stone Wall Overlook has become a place where cars meet to exchange and deal drugs. We see the same cars on Skyline Drive at predictable times of the day, and if these vehicles stop either at the Overlook or on the road and you approach them either on foot or in a vehicle, they immediately leave. We walk and drive on Skyline Drive daily to pick up our mail at the cemetery that is 1.5 miles from our home. We pick up trash when we walk and have found not only alcohol bottles, but used injection needles, small ziplock bags (supposedly used for drugs), used aerosol cans, used gas cylinders (for paint ball guns?), and even a flag that read "DRUGS" on it planted on the hill. It is safe to assume that there is a lot of drug traffic on Skyline Drive.

The area that is being proposed for more seating, etc. already has a problem. After the grass was planted several years ago, cars immediately started to drive on the grass and park there. From our house we could hear loud music and see drinking, smoking, and other activity with up to seven cars at once in that area. More trash appeared, and the large boulder that is on the edge of the hill is constantly covered with graffiti and gang

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signs. After we called the Parks Department, they posted "No Parking" signs and put some boulders along the road to deter this activity, but it has continued. If this area were to be used for more "viewing" area, we suggest that there be 24-hour surveillance cameras so that this activity can be monitored effectively. We have called the police when we see this type of activity, but by the time we can get license plate numbers or the police arrive, the vehicles are gone.

Additionally, our house was targeted by vandals in January that severely damaged our front office window, window frames, siding, and stonework. These vandals walked up to our property to do this vandalism. Subsequently, we have \$20K of repairs needed to our home, and our insurance will only reimburse us for \$5K for the vandalism. We will have to replace another picture window to match the destroyed window, and replace more stonework and siding to match the needed repairs.

In summary, we oppose this expansion of the "Stone Wall Overlook" area to include a picnic shelter or other seating as we believe that it will invite more vagrancy and crime in this area. Skyline Drive is designated as a "Scenic Byway" and is part of the Skyline Wilderness Area. It may be a wiser use of taxpayers' money to fix the poor drainage, rough and deteriorated road and other stone walls on Skyline Drive, as well as monitor the drug traffic and the excessive vehicle speeds on this busy city street. Because the Parks Department's addition of boulders to restrict off-road vehicle parking in this area was of some help, it might be a good idea to extend the boulders all the way to the trailhead wall to further prevent off-road parking.

We are only one taxpayer, but we feel that our City needs to be responsive to everyone's concerns and control the negative problems that the proposed amendment invites. My husband and I hope that you will consider our input into this matter and **not** grant an amendment to continue to develop this area with an accessory structure, walking path or other additional areas that will only invite problems in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is "Glenda K. Williams" and the second is "Robert L. Williams".

Glenda and Robert Williams

Cc: Fletcher Lacock (Fletcher.Lacock@RCgov.org)