



# Petition Regarding Chapter 18 and CDAB

Petitioner: Aaron Walker

# Petition:

**Language:** “Obtain Substantive feedback from the public on the Chapter 18 final draft before making a decision on the adoption of the draft and obtain substantive feedback on the status and future of the Community Development Advisory Board (CDAB) before making a decision on potentially restructuring it.”

**Plain English:** “Take it slow. Get feedback directly from the citizens on the final draft of Chapter 18. Incorporate feedback and make sure it’s done right. Discuss the future of CDAB with them before rushing to a decision on whether or not to get rid of the board.

# Why We're Here:

There seems to be a big rush to get the Chapter 18 draft approved and CDAB “reorganized” into a task force.

This isn't the proper way to legislate. Rushing to get things done never ends in getting them done properly. Important details get left out and people get ignored.

# So What Is Actually Wrong?

- ▶ There doesn't appear to be any public feedback on the “final” draft.
- ▶ The public has no clue what is ACTUALLY going to be voted on. Council still has input on changes to make. This means that the public has no idea what the final code is.
- ▶ Putting an ordinance out to restructure CDAB BEFORE the code has even been adopted is putting the cart before the horse.

# Examples:

CDAB Actions Sept 19 2022: “By a vote of 5-1 CDAB approved motions that recommended the proposed Alternative Language for Section 18-38, Inoperable or Abandoned Vehicles be adopted so that vehicle repairs and active vehicle restoration projects can be conducted on a driveway, that no time limit be imposed if the vehicle is registered, and that the clause ‘with an opaque cover designed to fit the motor vehicle’ be removed from the text of the Alternative Language.”

This section is still in the “final draft”. The residents of this community have a vested interest in how this section of the ordinance pans out. Will council remove the language according to the recommendation of CDAB? Will council choose to ignore that recommendation and leave it in?

People should be given the answer to this question and have the opportunity to weigh in on it IN ADVANCE. They shouldn’t have to guess or wonder what is going to be voted on.

# Examples (Continued):

CDAB Actions Sept 19 2022: “By a vote of 4-2 CDAB approved a motion to recommend striking Section 18-34, Outdoor Storage and instead rely on the provisions of Section 18-32, Accumulation of Litter, Garbage, and Refuse to regulate the accumulation of materials on properties.”

Section 18-34 is “Rodent Harborage” in the “final draft”. Yet there is still an “Outdoor Storage” section 18-35. Is this a typo? Is it designed to stay? Is council going to remove it? Keep it?

These are the sort of things that we (residents) shouldn't have to attempt to divine on our own. This must be clear and transparent well in advance of the meeting. It isn't clear, and that is a massive problem.

# Why Are These Actually Problems?

- ▶ The residents don't appear to have had the opportunity to weigh in on the "final draft" of Chapter 18 yet. No feedback has been solicited to my knowledge, so if there has been it has been done poorly.
- ▶ Transparency. If council doesn't know what Chapter 18 will look like after it makes changes, then why would there be any vote on it at this juncture? How are the residents supposed to know what is getting voted on? How would they know how to make public comment?
- ▶ Haste leads to unintended consequences.

# Drawbacks of Slowing Down:

**NONE**



# Benefits of Slowing Down:

- ▶ Council ensures that the revision is getting done in a matter that the residents of the community want and need.
- ▶ Residents feel more involved in the process and have a better opinion of the final product (and council) when they are included.
- ▶ Don't force CDAB into a corner being a Task Force with a sunset date.
- ▶ A clear and transparent document gets voted on, and that's the way it should be.

# Consequences of Rushing and Voting Now:

- ▶ Get a code people are unhappy with.
- ▶ Ignoring public sentiment never goes over well. The last time Council rushed to get something done and ignored public comment and sentiment regarding the nuisance code, there was a several years long battle that culminated with the formation of CDAB.
- ▶ Ruin any goodwill with the public that was built with this last election.

It doesn't have to be this way!

# What We're Asking For:

Simply slow down and get this right. Take time to get feedback on this “final draft” and take council’s input. Once a true FINAL draft is documented after incorporating the substantive public input and council’s input, give the public a true chance to review it. THEN vote on it. Vote on something when people understand what is getting voted on.

AFTER the fate of Chapter 18 is decided, THEN determine the fate of CDAB. That is the logical and rational step to take.

# Conclusion

- ▶ SLOW DOWN! Make sure you are getting it right.
- ▶ There are ZERO consequences of taking your time and getting it right.
- ▶ The consequences of rushing a vote and getting a code people are unhappy with are wide-ranging.

This petition isn't asking for anything to get taken off the table. This is simply asking for communication with the public, clarity, and transparency. It's asking for slow, methodical steps to get to the best solution.

This should be an easy decision. Would you rather take the route with no drawbacks, or the route that will cause significant backlash and unintended consequences?