

From: [Robin Crotty](#)
To: [Robin Crotty](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Contact Us
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 9:48:16 AM

From: Neil Bradshaw <NBradshaw@ketchumidaho.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2020 10:42 AM
To: Gerard Kelly <gerardketchum@gmail.com>
Cc: Participate <participate@ketchumidaho.org>; AllCouncil <AllCouncil@Ketchumidaho.org>; Robin Crotty <rcrotty@ketchumidaho.org>; Lisa Enourato <LEnourato@ketchumidaho.org>
Subject: Re: Form submission from: Contact Us

Thanks for your email Gerard

I can assure you that I come from a place that is trying to do what is best for our community. There is nothing I see in my tone that suggests anything other than trying to have an open dialogue - I certainly do not explicitly say or even imply that you or anyone should "get back in their place" - if you read that into anything I write then I can assure you that is not (or ever will be) intended. I apologize if it comes across that way.

I always seek to be impeccable with my words, never assume, take nothing personally and do my best - that is my mantra.

There is no question that the public process is challenging in this environment. COVID has created pressure to create more open and safe spaces while not allowing for gatherings (and open houses) to discuss ideas and proposals.

You may recall that many cities around the country were closing streets and we had significant public pressure to do the same in our town. This idea was floated in my bi-monthly missives (and city website and social media) and noticed in the council agenda. I talked to many business owners (but not all) directly to solicit their feedback.

We also said that this would be a trial run to test the idea and learn from it. While we have tremendous support for the idea, the action taken has not been unanimously supported for various reasons. I can assure you that the council and myself continue to listen and learn from the community.

I would be interested in other forms of communications that you recommend - I agree with you that communication is key to successful government and I focus a lot of my time on this - emails, blogs, websites, guest opinions, notices, social media, posters etc. - but I am sure there is more than can be done. I do like to having open houses and am sorry to see them be a casualty of COVID - these Open Houses created a great opportunity to connect in person.

I am happy to meet with you anytime, to discuss further.

Cheers

Neil

PS. I am not up for election until November 2021 - hopefully folks will want me to stick around - but that will be up to them!

Mayor

P.O. Box 2315 | 480 East Ave. N. | Ketchum, ID 83340

o: 208.727.5087 | m: 208.721.2162

nbradshaw@ketchumidaho.org | www.ketchumidaho.org

On Jul 25, 2020, at 10:00 AM, Gerard Kelly wrote:

Mr Bradshaw,

I appreciate you getting back to me. My reasons are simple, self-evident and have nothing to do with any data, studies, statistics, committee findings, premises based on what is happening elsewhere, or any other such evasive and essentially irrelevant ways of constraining public discourse.

Businesses require shoppers. Shoppers use cars to get to where they are going. Cars take up space (parking and traveling) and we don't currently have enough space to accommodate the quantity of parking and traveling necessary for a viable business district on East 4th Street. Maybe someday people's driving and shopping habits will change but they haven't yet, nor is it any of our responsibility to try to change it for them.

The issue turns on respect for boundaries. The City, the constituents, the businesses all function together in a system of well managed limits. I perceive that the City is overstepping its proper limits here in an attempt to force a lifestyle on the citizens and businesses without consulting them first. To be blunt, it is not appropriate for Public Servants to presume to know what is best for their constituents, much less to lecture them. Sadly, I am catching the same tone in your response to my letter, the drift of which seems to be that I should get back in my place until I can present data superior to yours. I am a voting, taxpaying constituent, not a junior board member making impertinent remarks. This is supposed to be a community, not a hierarchy with the City officials at the top.

The pandemic has made things frustrating for most people. We all want to get back to normal and many are afraid of what the future may hold. For this reason it is best that we try to promote stability and communication wherever we can. Change of any kind will invite distrust, and should be weighed carefully and postponed until absolutely necessary. So it has been with 4th Street: too fast, too soon, not enough communication.

Once again, thank you for your response to my letter. I appreciate that you are on a pretty hot seat at the moment, but I don't doubt that your heart is in the right place and you are trying to proceed according to your best judgement. Good luck and I hope you still feel like running again in November after all this.

Sincerely,

Gerard Kelly

Ketchum, ID

On Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 9:22 PM Neil Bradshaw <NBradshaw@ketchumidaho.org> wrote:

| Thanks for your email Gerard

I would be interested in why you think closing 4th street to pedestrians would be good for the businesses .
Every other case involving street opening to pedestrians has shown quite opposite. Again, this is something that we have proposed to trial based on significant success experienced elsewhere.
We don't know how this will work out but I would be interested in any data that you could provide that shows that street traffic closures are bad for businesses.
Thanks again for your input and your participation in this process.
We are always looking to do what is best for our city - what was proposed has seen considerable success elsewhere.
Cheers
Neil

NEIL BRADSHAW | CITY OF KETCHUM

Mayor

P.O. Box 2315 | 480 East Ave. N. | Ketchum, ID 83340
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-----Original Message-----

From: City of Ketchum Idaho via City of Ketchum Idaho
<participate@ketchumidaho.org>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 1:33 PM
To: Participate <participate@ketchumidaho.org>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Friday, July 24, 2020 - 1:33pm Submitted by anonymous user: 67.41.33.44 Submitted values are:

First Name: Gerard

Last Name: Kelly

Email:

Question/Comment:

Hello Mayor and Council. I am writing to let you know that we need to reopen 4th Street ASAP. The decision to close it was ill-advised. The consequences have been extremely inconvenient for residents and disastrous for businesses. I know you think you had good reasons, but you need to consider that your clever ideas may have real-world consequences that negatively affect your constituents and I'm sorry, but this was a bad decision. Maybe it might have worked in an expanding business climate where there was high demand for commercial space, but that is not where we are today. Businesses are closing. The ones left are struggling for survival. Nothing new is going in to 4th Street and nothing will be going in, especially now that you have

made it so unfriendly for retailers. We will be very fortunate to survive the pandemic with a fraction of our businesses still in operation. How about trying to help them, instead of using their plight to advance your pet agendas? The traffic is a mess with cars going every which way, making U-turns and looping out to Sun Valley Road just to shop at the grocery store. It looks bad. It makes you and all of us look like idiots. Please do the right thing and open 4th Street back up. Thank you,
Gerard Kelly (full-time Ketchum resident since 1978)

Ketchum, ID 83340

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.ketchumidaho.org/node/7/submission/4251>