

**From:** [Robin Crotty](#)  
**To:** [Robin Crotty](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 4th Street Closure  
**Date:** Thursday, July 30, 2020 3:28:34 PM

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**From:** John Melin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:06 PM  
**To:** Participate <[participate@ketchumidaho.org](mailto:participate@ketchumidaho.org)>  
**Subject:** 4th Street Closure

From: John Melin  
To: Participate <[participate@ketchumidaho.org](mailto:participate@ketchumidaho.org)>  
Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2020  
Re: 4<sup>th</sup> Street Closure

I have read with interest the recent articles in the Mountain Express about the lawsuits which are being filed with respect to the above. As a retail merchant in Giacobbi Square, Ketchum Kitchens has also been negatively impacted by the street closure. I am certain that we had reduced sales due to the lack of convenient parking. The parking was particularly stressed at peak times because we made a decision to close our back door (on Leadville) to minimize walk through traffic as part of our response to Covid. As a result, customers could only enter the store through the main mall area and main parking lot.

I don't understand how the elected officials the City of Ketchum feel that it is okay to do damage to local businesses because they (the officials) have an idea. There was no outreach to the business community, or any community, to search for better ideas or to understand the impact of the decision. There was no discussion about how to mitigate the damage that their spontaneous idea would cause.

There also seemed to be limited thought given to implementing the idea. The street closure next to Atkinsons looks unwelcoming with few ugly tables, negative signs (ROAD CLOSED) and tired street lines. From my daily observation, it does get some use. However, the street next to Big Wood Bread gets no use and looks even worse. I feel sorry for the businesses in that area because the City intentionally damaged their business during this trying time of Covid.

I compliment Atkinsons who likely lost sizeable business and had their operation substantially disrupted with the home delivery parking spaces and the loss of street parking. They have taken your decision with their customary stoicism. If they join the lawsuits, their damages will dwarf the others.

Think about how much better this could have been if you had limited the closure to one block and asked George Golleher and Starbucks to help by providing chairs and tables and expanding the food offering in the public area. But, in the end, a few local merchants pay for your half-baked idea with lousy execution.

Now is not the time to double down. My suggestion is to publicly apology to the damaged businesses, open the street next to Big Wood Bread, and pay some form of compensation to the businesses in that area. Please don't use my sales tax dollars for the recompense or your lawsuit since I have already paid.

Sincerely,  
John Melin  
Owner, Ketchum Kitchens