



TO: Lawrence City Commissioners
RE: Dedication of Added Right-of-Way
for ""5th Street Bluff""
DATE: June 17, 2009

We write to underscore the elevated, outright physical danger that would be created on W. 5th St. as one consequence of this proposed ROW dedication. The City's acceptance of the added right-of-way would approve the path for a deathtrap driveway on an inherently hazardous curve.

In various communications with City planners, we have detailed the physical hazards attendant to this "5th Street Bluff" project. Neighborhood concerns have been swept aside as this project has been rushed to the dedication decision point before you.

It is our earnest hope that each Commissioner will pay an advance visit to the W. 5th St. site, minutes away from City Hall. Stand in the street at the curve and imagine it under ice-covered, foggy, drenching rain, or nighttime conditions. Would you feel safe in a car, on a motorcycle, riding a bicycle, or afoot? Backing uphill out of a driveway onto the street? Approaching another vehicle?

We adamantly object to the proposed dedication of added right-of-way, to the disregard of conventional frontage standards, and to any other measures that may be employed to authorize creation of a driveway at this location.

Further: Given our repeated cautions and pleas to the City, we believe that any accident, injury, or death occurring in the vicinity of such a driveway would be a predictable, direct consequence of accepting this added right-of-way. Surely, our Commissioners do not wish to expose the City to any related allegations of gross negligence or willful disregard of human life that such an outcome could generate.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Caldwell and
Jacqueline Schafer, 1930 West 5th St.,
on behalf of all objecting
Grandview Heights homeowners