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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2018 10:24 AM

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**Subject:** Right of way on 18th ave

Dear Mayor Hayward and Members of the City Council,

I am writing you today because of a Bike Pensacola post I saw on Facebook regarding a vote you took at your last council meeting about the vacation of a right of way on 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As a homeowner in East Hill, I have very strong opinions about both the post and your decision and I feel the need to share them with you.

I feel confident I am not the only one to reach out to in response to this Facebook post as that was the intent of Bike Pensacola when they posted it. I found what was written to be misleading and inaccurate at best and a targeted attack on good neighbors at worst.

Bike Pensacola called into question your commitment to "Vision Zero" which they say is a strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. Let's talk about that for a second. How does a disconnected, non-ADA compliant sidewalk on one block of East Hill meet the mission of Vision Zero? The road this sidewalk is on, 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, has very little traffic; so little, in fact, that pedestrians use the street as a sidewalk and can walk for blocks without even seeing a car. I don't see how this sidewalk to nowhere, that is not even used by pedestrians, is not handicap accessible, and is on a quiet street in East Hill, is helping to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries or increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility. Your vote did nothing to impact Vision Zero because it doesn't impact the mission of Vision Zero.

Bike Pensacola went on to point out that the council did not require the sidewalk to be replaced and only left enough space for a new sidewalk right next to the street. Again, this was the right call by the council. If you drive down 17<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Avenues (notably busier streets than 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue) where the city has recently and rightfully installed new sidewalks just within the past year, you will see that these sidewalks are built right on the curb. If the city felt that those sidewalks were safe enough on busy streets, why would the city feel that more protection is necessary on a street with little to no traffic? Additionally, why should the homeowners be asked to replace sidewalks the city didn't install in the first place, are never used, and by my understanding, none of the surrounding neighbors want?

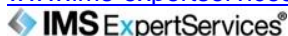
Finally, I want to say something about the applicants of this request. When Ryan and Jonathon Wiggins moved back into their home in East Hill, the neighborhood was better for it. Within a year of moving back into their home, they saw a need and started and currently maintain a neighborhood watch group to help protect their neighbors and increase safety in East Hill. They planted a butterfly garden on the right of way in question for the enjoyment and education of their neighbors. They would give you the shirts off their backs if asked. They are the types of neighbors who stand up for people and for what's right in this neighborhood, which is one reason I am standing up for them now.

You are to be commended for the vote you took on July 19th. It was the right thing to do. East Hill is the home of the disjointed sidewalk to nowhere. These sidewalks serve no purpose for public safety as they are non-continuous. I ask that you don't let the vocal minority, most of whom do not even live in East Hill, make you question your sound decision. Please give more weight to the opinions of the immediate neighbors who are really the only ones directly impacted by your vote. I humbly request that you continue to show leadership on this issue and stand by your decision on August 9th.

Sincerely,  
Jody Braxton  
917 E. Bobe Street

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