

Dear Council Members,

My name is Lindsay Logan, and I am writing you as both a concerned Apex resident and mother. Recently my family and our neighbors have been targeted by a disgruntled neighbor who continues to attempt to make multiple police reports in reference to our children playing outside in the front of our driveways. We were informed by an Apex PD officer on Tuesday 10/22 that this gentleman made an additional report citing that we were in violation of Apex town ordinance Section 14-28. Prior to his most recent report, he had initially presented to law enforcement that his concern had been for parental supervision/safety of our children. However when those concerns were determined to be unfounded (there was a total of 6 adults supervising 4 children ages 4-9 upon the officer's contact) his complaints escalated to include this specific ordinance that children are not permitted to engage in "game" or "recreation" in any street or sidewalk. This particular individual has maintained his residence in Scotts Mill for 11 years, yet has very minimal interaction if any with his immediate neighbors. He and his wife have yet to ever approach any neighboring parent nor myself to directly express any safety concern related to our children playing outside. It is important to note that my youngest, my 6 year old daughter was just laugh last week how to ride her bike without training wheels. A huge milestone for any child! Unfortunately this sweet memory is now tainted by memories that will remain of when the police were called "because I was learning to ride a bike with my parents." She was in tears on Tuesday night repeating over and over "I'll never ride my bike again; I want to move!" It was devastating. As we consoled her. and y 9 year old son who also loves playing outside, we came to the realization that we would need to do more to bring this issue to light in our community. A community which is centered around supporting families. My children did settle that night because they knew I would be engaging you, as well as any other key community stakeholders including other parents, in pursuing changes to an ordinance that infringes on their right to enjoy their friends and area surrounding their property.

Upon reviewing Sec 14-28 I am quite compelled to request and advocate that this ordinance be amended immediately. Firstly I believe that an amendment should differentiate residential streets in private neighborhood communities. Our neighborhood in Scotts Mill is FULL of children who routinely play outside. In their yards, on the sidewalks, and yes sometimes in front of their driveways in the street. I have not witnessed any of them impeding traffic, preventing maintenance, or any of the other conditions stated in the ordinance that would otherwise prevent them from doing so. Secondly I would like an amendment to include some element of parental supervision as we have all diligently strived (countless hours of our weeks and years) to provide our children in order to keep them safe. This ordinance removes this inherent right as a parent. That regardless of standing feet away from your child while teaching them to ride their bike without training wheels...your neighbor may still call the police to report you. A fellow neighbor also mentioned the contradictory Chapter 20, Article I, Sec 20-3 where children under the age of 16 riding a bicycle must wear a helmet while riding on public streets.

According to the 2018 clinical report by The American Academy of Pediatrics, *The Power of Play: A Pediatric Role in Enhancing Development in Young Children*, play is recommended for children "to buffer toxic stress, build parental relationships, an improve executive functioning."

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/142/3/e20182058>

In closing, I will continue to advocate for change and resolution as it pertains to this particular ordinance to promote our right to peaceful enjoyment of our property while supporting both child and community safety. Please respond with the collective plan from the council as to what steps if any will be taken to address this issue.