

Good Afternoon,

November 4th, 2024

I am writing to you, City Council, in regard to proposing a plan / solution for a safety ride program in the city of Saratoga, WY & Carbon County, to reduce the number of driving accidents related to driving under the influence, and DUI violations, and to promote public safety in Carbon County, and the town of Saratoga.

As you are aware, there is not a Taxi or Uber available in the town of Saratoga.

I very unfortunately recently, was arrested for a first DUI, and wish, with everything in me, that night had never happened. I am aware of my limits, and would have called a taxi or uber. That night, in a moment of wanting to get home, I drove, and I found myself on an unfamiliar road. I looked down at my maps to see where I was, and in that moment I veered off the road, hitting two fence posts, and my car ended up in an irrigation ditch. I was able to get out of the car, and I was physically unharmed. God was absolutely looking out for me that night. I called in for help. I thank God to the end of the earth no one was hurt.

Since this has occurred, I have reached out to the City of Sheridan, to advocate for safety for the city of Saratoga and Carbon County. Sheridan has a safe rides program in place. I spoke with Sarah Benevidez, in regard to how they structure their safety ride program, and thought it would be a beneficial outline for Saratoga to copy, to help keep the roads & public at a higher level of safety, and to reduce the number of accidents as well as DUI's for Carbon County.

Here is how they have established their Safety Ride program:

The city of Sheridan safety ride program is fully funded by the Liquor Dealer.

The city was able to have Bars and Restaurants with a liquor license get on board, offering a driving service that provides patrons a safe way to get home, should there be a situation where a patron should not be driving.

The Bar or Restaurant purchases a ticket book of \$350, with 25 tickets in each booklet. The book of tickets has a carbon copy, so that the establishment keeps one copy of the ticket, and the taxi or uber driver keeps one copy of the ticket, and submits an invoice to the city at the end of the month, and then are paid for the number of rides they give.

The Patron is charged \$5 for the ticket, or given out / given to for free.

The Taxi driver charges \$12 per ride, and that is what they are paid by the city for completing the safe ride home. They charge an additional dollar, or whichever amount would be agreed upon for a longer distance.

The city gains a small amount financially, and the bars and restaurants gain in knowing that they are promoting public safety, and reducing accidents and DUI's.

Thank you for considering this request as a potential solution to reduce the number of DUI cases in the City of Saratoga, and to promote safety for the community.

