



Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

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## City Code Violations and enforcements Public comment for the city of Stevenson and Skamania County BOCC

1 message

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**Mitch Patton** <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 3:49 PM

To: City of Stevenson <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: Ben Shumaker <ben@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, rmuth@kilmerlaw.com, Kick <kick@co.skamania.wa.us>, Commissioners <commiss@co.skamania.wa.us>, planningcommissioners <planningcommissioners@co.skamania.wa.us>

During the last city council meeting, there was a discussion about city code violations and how to address them cost-effectively. From what I understood from Ben Shumaker and Robert Muth, it was deemed not cost-effective to pursue many of these violations. I recall hearing the phrase "bang for the buck" mentioned once or twice, which got me thinking about other properties in the Stevenson areas where I had done some brush mowing in the past few years. Let's just say there are many properties in violation of many city codes!

My concern here is about the issue of code enforcement. It seems like in many cases situational ethics are being used which appears to be common in Skamania County. To be clear, if the city is going to have codes, they should enforce them equally for all. and they should be written very clearly many of these city codes are outdated and unjust and need to be removed altogether.

Council members, it is crucial to ensure that decisions regarding codes and their enforcement are explicitly written, without leaving room for discretion to use these codes as leverage against property owners whom the city may not favor. If a code cannot be clearly expressed in a few words, it is likely unnecessary. Many city codes may already fall under state or federal regulation; therefore, the city could significantly reduce its codes by enforcing state and federal WAC and RCW only.

I also believe our county could benefit from applying a similar approach to streamline its codes and code enforcement. Both the city and county have become overly stringent with codes, often making it difficult for the public to comprehend their intended enforcement purposes. This situation reminds me of my old dog, "RIP" King Kong, who would endlessly chase his tail, occasionally even biting it, ultimately only making himself more agitated.

Thanks for your time and keep the public in mind at all times. we can make the city and county great once again with your help.

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Mitch Patton 360-903-9040

"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, from "Oldtown Folks"