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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:56 PM
To: Council
Subject: Ward Boundaries

[External]

To the Members of the City Council:

I have been following the Council's discussions about revising the boundaries of the three city wards. If a historical perspective would be helpful in your deliberations, I chaired the committee that created the current boundaries as the city transitioned from a seven-ward/two at-large election map to three wards.

That committee, which included the nine City Council members, considered several criteria in devising the current ward boundaries, but perhaps the most important consideration was keeping West Laramie and the West Side intact. There were two reasons for this.

First, the committee considered them communities within the town of Laramie, with some demographic characteristics that differed with most of the rest of the city. There was a desire to keep these communities intact by placing them within the same ward rather than divided and diffused among two or three.

Second, it was difficult to elect a resident from West Laramie or the West Side when all the Council members were elected at-large. Under that setup, most Councilors lived in the eastern or central parts of town and seldom west of the tracks, precipitating quite a few complaints from that area. The desire to distribute membership on the Council throughout the entire community drove the effort that resulted in the 7-2 system and then the current three wards.

As a result of these considerations, the committee created its first ward boundaries to include West Laramie and the West Side. There are many things that contribute to Laramie's sense of community. One of them is the knowledge that a representative of the City Council lives nearby. The current ward boundary lines do that fairly well.

Good luck in your work.

Mike Massie
Laramie

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