

Dear members of the commission, Laramie City Council and City Planning Staff.

Tonight will be my last meeting of the Laramie planning commission and the board of adjustment. I have greatly appreciated my time on the board. However, there are a few issues with the board and the city I would like to address.

First of all, as a citizen and someone who was lucky enough to be chosen for this position I feel I must highlight the importance of said position. Despite the sometimes grueling nature of meetings it is key that normal people (especially lower income student types such as myself) get involved. Furthermore, as citizens we need to question these processes playing out as they often go unnoticed and unattended. My biggest regret as a member of the commission is not raising enough hell.

Secondly there are wide and systemic issues with the way the city of Laramie continues to tackle housing. For our talk of the importance of affordable housing to grow this city I failed to see any meaningful measures go through in my year and a half on the board. Elected city government continues to not pass reasonable and much needed restrictions on landlords as well as approve any new developments even approaching the threshold of affordable. I have seen many struggle with substandard conditions, unreasonable demands and ever increasing prices from a small subset of this city that fails to make critical repairs and appropriate concessions.

Finally, I feel that as members of this commission and city government we all have failed to prepare this city for the economic future that is to come. The Thrive Laramie plan was completely inadequate to meet the needs of the working class both present and to come. Large scale developments continue to favor the wealthy while the folks that serve you, cook, clean and staff all the functions we enjoy in this city continue to live in deteriorating facilities.

I want to reiterate that I have appreciated my time on the commission and the criticisms I have listed above are as much a critique of myself as they are of city governance. I have appreciated the lessons I have learned on this board and I wish all members a bright future. Thank you all for the time.

In Solidarity,

Jordan Giese