

Cañon City Skyline Hogbacks Preservation Campaign

The following speech was presented to the Cañon City Council members at the July 2, 2007 council meeting.

It was both written and delivered by Cañon City resident and retired Colorado State Trooper, David Garcia.

My name is David Garcia. I am a retired State Trooper. I've worked on the road and investigated crashes for 24 years. Some were fatal accidents. I have seen a lot of heartache in those years.

I live on North High Street near the Hogbacks. My home was built in 2000. I have lived in Fremont County, (Canon City) for 18 years and am a lifelong resident of 52 years.

The area I live in is a residential area that has small children playing as well as walkers, joggers and bicyclists.

My main concern is the High Street entrance to the Hogbacks. This entrance is a few houses up the street from me. The traffic has steadily increased. I have observed mostly underage kids riding dirt bikes, scooters, four-wheelers, go-carts and even a golf cart. I have seen careless and reckless driving by these vehicles. These vehicles have been seen speeding, weaving, popping wheelies and running stop signs. I would bet the majority have no operator's license, no eye protection, no helmet, no insurance and no registration for the vehicle as well as no adult supervision.

A year ago or so a Canon City Police Department officer Bill Ownby was working on a follow up of reckless motorcycles on my street. I gave permission for him to park on my property to wait for a motorcycle to come by. Sure enough, they came speeding and they were popping wheelies. The cyclist was contacted by the officer and cited. On a more personal note, a friend of our family was riding in the Hogbacks (unsupervised) when his motorcycle was struck broadside by a four-wheeler. He sustained serious internal injuries and almost died at the scene. It was lucky that another kid actually knew him and gave information to the EMS rescuers. He did eventually recover from that accident.

I recently saw a video on the internet on youtube that shows a car driving up and down the hogback hills. He was digging deep paths into the terrain. I could hardly believe it. It was a local teenager's car. I could hardly believe what I had seen.

I am concerned about the traffic, the residents and their children. I am also concerned about the safety of the kids that are involved while they are riding in the hogback area.

I have a motorcycle and have had a four-wheeler in the past. I have enjoyed riding for the past 34 years. I'm all for fun and always tried to be safe and respectful. The use of motorcycles in the Hogbacks is uncontrolled and unsafe. We need to address this issue.

Thank-you for this opportunity to speak tonight.