

September 10, 2021

City of Helena Mayor Wilmont Collins
City of Helena Commissioners, Emily Dean , Andres Haladay,
Sean Logan, Heather O'Loughlin
City Manager Rachel Harlow-Schalk
City Attorney Thomas Jodoin
Chief of Police Steve Hagen

Battershell Properties, Inc is the owner of the buildings on the 2700, 2800 and 2920 blocks of Billings Avenue and also 1005 18th St. For the past eight months there have been numerous campers parking on the street for weeks and months at a time. Most of the campers do not have vehicles to move them, so they are stationary. The camper owners are even hiring other vehicles to drop their campers on Billings Avenue.

With these campers parked on Billings Avenue, the movement of traffic, in particular semi-trucks and delivery vehicles is inhibited and dangerous. Traffic has to stop and wait for semis to navigate the street.

There have been numerous calls to the police department, although until recently I wasn't requesting incident reports as I believed an incident report would be filed. As I started asking for incident numbers and requesting copies of the reports, I noticed that only two out of three reports I have received had the license numbers of the vehicles noted. I have only received three reports, as I understand there is a backlog for reports.

My business and tenants' businesses have had a very difficult year with all the business restrictions they have faced. Now, neither they nor their customers are safe as they are accosted for money and use of the businesses' facilities. The illegal campers' garbage most of the time is left wherever it is thrown, with the property owners are left to clean-up. Trash, when it is actually put my dumpsters, is not properly sorted, so I am being charged an extra fee for their garbage,

The trailers' have connected into my buildings' electricity at night with extension cords strung across the street. In order, to stop this, the paying tenants now can't access the outside electricity. The field behind the buildings and the ditches on the 2920 Billings block are used as a primitive toilet or often times, they just stand outside their trailers for a toilet. These actions have all been reported to the police. Raw sewage from the campers is dumped in the street. It has been over a week since the sewage discharge was reported to the police and the health department. Both departments are still "investigating" as sewage continues to be dumped.

Many campers and vehicles which are often parked the wrong direction fail to have registration plates.

My suggestion is to document them each time the police are called to actually remove these vehicles. Each time one is allowed to stay, more follow. The north side of the street should be painted yellow with NO PARKING signs. The south side should be posted with a limit of 8-10 hours for parking.

Below are the ordinances which appear to be in violation:

According to the City of Helena Ordinance **8-11-1**: *A vehicle, motor vehicle, or trailer left on a City street, alley, roadway or public property over seventy two (72) hours without being moved shall be declared abandoned.* **8-11-10: PARKING FOR CAMPING PURPOSES**: *It shall be unlawful for any person to park any motor vehicle, trailer or camper for camping purposes on or within any public street or alleyway within the City, or within one-half (1/2) mile of the City limits upon any public street or alleyway, except in an authorized tourist park, or upon special authorization by the City Manager. (Ord. 2688, 9-27-1993)*

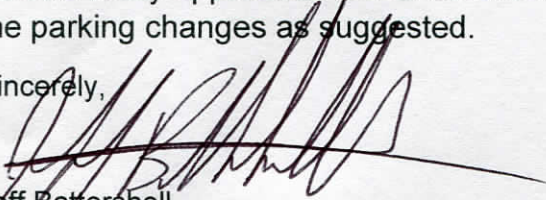
8-11-9: NO PARKING OF CERTAIN VEHICLES: *It shall be unlawful at any time to park a motor vehicle giving off an offensive or disagreeable odor, or containing disagreeable and offensive matter, or any vehicle engaged in hauling gasoline, oil or other flammable or explosive matter, whether the vehicle is loaded or empty, upon any public street or alleyway within the City. (Ord. 2329, 1-16-1984)*

Of course the cars are parked going the wrong way. **8-11-3: METHOD FOR CURBSIDE PARKING**: *A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a vehicle parked upon any public street or thoroughfare shall be parked or stopped with the right hand wheels of the vehicle parallel to and within eighteen inches (18") of the right hand curb, or right hand pavement edge or street boundary, as long as such vehicle is facing the same direction as the traffic flow upon such street.*

Any vehicle parked on a city street, alley, roadway or public property, including city owned or regulated parking lots, which is required to display a registration plate and none is displayed on the vehicle or the registration plate has expired, shall be deemed a nuisance and shall be impounded and placed in storage pursuant to the provisions of section 8-21-1 of this title. (Ord. 2555, 5-21-1990)

I would really appreciate the enforcement of the city ordinances and the consideration of the parking changes as suggested.

Sincerely,


Jeff Battershell
Vice President, Battershell Properties, Inc.
406 431 7355

Precision Embroidery of Helena 2700-2702 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Big Sky Rentals 2808-2810 Billings Ave Helena, MT
Crown Trophy of Helena 2704 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Eastside Plaza Hair Design 2812 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
2706 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Pate Auction 2814 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
Wicked Lix 2708 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Elkhorn Realty 2816 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
Corcoran Trucking Inc 2710 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Church of the Christian Gospel Mission 2820 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
Beds to Go 2712-2714 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Strategic Accounting 2822 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
KGR Radio 2716 Billings Ave Helena, MT	Mid Steam 2824 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
State Farm Insurance 2718 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Dog Diggity Day 2828 Billings Avenue Helena, MT
Cornerstone Wellness Center 2720 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	Battershell Properties 1005 18 th B Helena, MT
Big Sky Resale 2800 Billings Helena, MT	Montana Hail Dent 1005 18 th C Helena, MT
Automation Management Consulting 2802-2804 Billings Avenue Helena, MT	PEAK 1005 18 th A Helena, MT

All in One 2920 Avenue B Helena, MT	Battershell Properties 2920 Billings Avenue G Helena, MT
Gear House 2920 Avenue C Helena, MT	Osborne 2920 Billings Avenue H Helena, MT
Bri Wax 2920 Billings Avenue D,E,F Helena, MT	MT Carpenters Union Apprentice Training 2920 Billings Avenue I-J Helena, MT
Core Controls 2920 Billings Ave A Helena, MT	