

Eres, Christian

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of time2gosailing at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 11:34 AM
To: Lewis, Jamie E
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #30047279

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Direction of Inquiry Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5

Subject Public Safety

Message

July 27, 2024

To: Clearwater Mayor Bruce Rector, Commissioner Chris Latvala and Florida House Rep. Kim Berfield

From: Marcus Lund

Dear elected officials,

I am really concerned about the lack of civility, common sense and aggressive behavior among the citizens I come in contact with each day. Over the past two months I have actually felt a high degree of anxiety over numerous incidents that occurred while I have been walking my dog. I am 74 years old and have been walking my dog, for 21 years, from my Bayshore Townhouse neighborhood, north on McMullen Booth Road, through Del Oro Park, then south on Bayshore Blvd. back to my house. (about 2 miles) Here is an example of a recent incident. I was walking my leashed golden retriever from the east side of Del Oro Park southward on Bayshore Blvd. towards the Harbour Towne Condos. On the west side of the street there is a 3 ft. wide sidewalk. Across Bayshore Blvd. is a wide "bike and pedestrian" path built with taxpayer money and wide enough for lots of foot and bike traffic. I was walking on the sidewalk, with limited visibility because of the overgrown vegetation and curve in the path of the sidewalk. All of a sudden, an electric bike comes flying around the corner towards me and my dog. The rider had to veer off the sidewalk to avoid hitting us. As he passed, I yelled out to him that he needed to slow down and use the bike path across the street. He then proceeded on his ride. Several minutes later he rode up behind me and started yelling obscenities at me. He said he wanted to know what I had said to him. I told him that he scared me and that he should be riding his bike on the new bike path instead of a narrow sidewalk. His response was "I am not going to cross the road to get on a bike path!" I don't know if there is any kind of rule about bike riders, but I would recommend passage of some new "rules of the road" especially since the new electric bikes are so prevalent, faster than peddled bikes and are more difficult to control at

high speeds.

Another incident occurred today. Once again, I was walking my leashed dog through Del Oro Park. I was on the bike and pedestrian part of the bike path since there was no "walkers only", narrower path in this part of the park. My golden retriever was walking behind me. Suddenly I heard a "screech" from the brakes on the bicycle. A younger guy yelled at me, "Are you trying to kill me?". Apparently, my dog saw a lizard crossing the path and darted left after the lizard. I felt the tug on her lease so turned around to see what the bike rider was yelling at me for. He then said "your dog should be on a lease and that I was a menace to him and his fellow bike riders. I yelled back and told him my dog WAS on a leash and suggested he give pedestrians verbal or audio notice when approaching walkers from behind at a high rate of speed. Considering many seniors have diminished hearing, this is very important. He stopped his bike, gave me a dirty, threatening look, but decided to proceed on his journey instead of beating up a senior citizen.

Before Del Oro Park was renovated last year there used to be a large map of the Pinellas Trail posted at both ends of Del Oro Park. The sign also had "rules of the road" which included:

- Wheels Yield to Heels (walkers have the right of way)
- Bicyclists were required to give a verbal warning (such as "on your left") or audio warning (a bell) when approaching a slower bike or walker
- Motorized vehicles prohibited (does this mean electric bikes?)

I'd also like to see bicyclists be required to use bike paths, if they exist, instead of riding on the road in auto traffic. Motorists should not be penalized for having to drive slowly behind these selfish bike riders. They will often take unnecessary risks in trying to pass a slower bike, so they are not late for work or an appointment.

Please take these comments to heart and see what can be done to improve the safety of your citizens.

Thanks,

Marcus Lund 3135 Oyster Bayou Way Clearwater, FL 33759 time2gosailing@gmail.com
407-276-3250

Your Name	Marcus A. Lund
Your Street Address	3135 OYSTER BAYOU WAY
City/Unincorporated County	Clearwater
Zip Code	33759
Your Phone Number	4072763250
Your Email Address	time2gosailing@gmail.com

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Eres, Christian

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of bryan.rodger at gmail.com <noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 27, 2024 12:51 PM
To: Lewis, Jamie E
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #30047419

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Direction of Inquiry Report a Problem
Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1
Commissioner Brian Scott - District 2 (2024 Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3
Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Commissioner Chris Latvala - District 5
Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6 (2024 Chair)
Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Subject Safety Issue - Madeira Beach

Message I just witnessed a serious safety concern. You had a construction loader driving on the beach with kids and families all around and to top it off there wasn't a spotter. There was NO ONE with him. Do something about this now.

Your Name Bryan Rodger

Your Street Address 9417 Bellhaven St.

City/Unincorporated County Temple Terrace

Zip Code 33637

Your Phone Number 8133938147

Your Email Address bryan.rodger@gmail.com

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