

May 3, 2010

Rocky View County
911 - 32nd Ave NE
Calgary Alberta T2E 6X6

Attention: Rocky View County Council

Dear Councilors,

Re: Bingham Crossing Development's Impact on Community Safety

On behalf of the Springbank Police Advisory Committee, I am expressing concern about the effect the Bingham Crossing development, if approved, will have on safety in our community, specifically on policing and road safety.

I attended the Calgary Regional Partnership's open house to learn about the Draft Regional Plan, reviewed Rocky View County's Growth Management Strategy, reviewed the Alberta Government's Land-use Framework and am familiar with portions of the Alberta Land Stewardship Act. I understand the necessity for planning for our future growth in our communities.

It is important for us all to recognize that developments such as Bingham Crossing significantly increase visitors to our community and will put increased demand on our RCMP. As we have discovered, in 1983 the Cochrane RCMP dispatch had 12 constables assigned to the rural area, including Springbank, but in 2006 had only 8 constables for the rural area. Despite a population increase, policing was not increased to sustain safety. As you know, we only recently received funding from Rocky View County for an additional rural RCMP officer to focus in the Bragg Creek, Springbank and Bearspaw areas. This is the first time that Rocky View County provided any funding for policing these areas. Whether this additional officer is sufficient at this time to service the area required is still not known. It goes without saying that any increase in demand will render this effort insufficient and Bingham Crossing will no doubt provide an increase in demand on our area policing. The Springbank Police Advisory Committee is aware that continued funding of the enhanced RCMP position is at the discretion of the Rocky View County Council.

As Chair of the Springbank Police Advisory Committee, I feel it is necessary to go on record and urge Rocky View County Council to secure the funding and resources required, from the appropriate government agencies, to ensure sufficient police services to support developments such as Bingham Crossing prior to approving such developments.

Furthermore, the Bingham Crossing development will impact community safety in its design. In Springbank such a development is sure to increase traffic on roads that were not designed for

high traffic use. I request that Rocky View County Council commit the resources required to enhance our roadways to ensure safety prior to approving the Bingham Crossing development.

I ask Rocky View County Council to formally acknowledge the impact that the Bingham Crossing development has on community safety and to make a real commitment to provide increased funding for additional resources in both policing and road safety prior to approving such a substantial development in our community. This acknowledgement and commitment should be part of the process that the County of Rocky View follows in order to make certain that community safety is ensured in Rocky View County and that it takes precedence over development of any kind.

Historically, policing and safety has not been a priority for Rocky View County. I encourage you, Rocky View County Councilors, to continue to keep community safety in mind. I further encourage you to postpone approving the Bingham Crossing development until the issues of community safety are adequately addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Christine Pennell
Chair
Springbank Police Advisory Committee

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