

**Miranda N. McKinnon**

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**Subject:** FW: Objection to auto racing at Central Annex

**From:** Billie Jo Underwood <[BUnderwood@baldwincountyal.gov](mailto:BUnderwood@baldwincountyal.gov)>

**Date:** January 12, 2019 at 7:40:05 AM CST

**To:** JB <[radiokingpin@gmail.com](mailto:radiokingpin@gmail.com)>

**Subject: Re: Objection to auto racing at Central Annex**

Thank you for comments.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 11, 2019, at 1:00 PM, JB <[radiokingpin@gmail.com](mailto:radiokingpin@gmail.com)> wrote:

Commissioner Underwood,

I wanted to write you an email, in protest of the proposed autocross racing event to be held at the Baldwin County Central Annex. I understand the proposed event will be discussed at the next commission meeting.

Having worked out of Central Annex as an employee during former Commissioner Dorsey's tenure, I was quite familiar with how the process works in regards to this "automobile club". I have found the process of having this race to be inconvenient to the employees and the public. Solid Waste employee Buford King's personal vehicle was towed for being in the parking lot after 5:00 PM on the Friday prior to the 1st event held at central annex. He was late late working at the landfill, and when he got back to Central Annex around 6 PM, his vehicle had been towed.

There was no race activity scheduled on that Friday.

I was rudely denied access to the recycling dumpster on the Friday before a race as well, by the race organizer. (Older man in camper) I came to the central annex around 4:45 with a load of recycling and was told I could not enter. His excuse was there was a race "tomorrow". I explained there was no race "today" and I was simply going to drop off the recycling and leave. He told me I was not allowed to go to the dumpster without his permission since the "were racing tomorrow". I told him he was "not racing today, and I'll call Dorsey (Tucker Dorsey) if I have to". I drove around his cones and emptied my cans while he glared at me the entire time. Upon leaving, back through his cones, I told him I had another load and I'll be back in 30 minutes. He told me he would not allow me in the parking lot if I came back. I waited until Sunday to return

I know this event is marketed as a "safety course", but it is simply circuit racing though the parking lot, through a track of cones and parking barriers. These are amateur drivers in street vehicles, driving and cornering at high speeds too close to buildings, light posts, and spectators. None of the vehicles I observed had rollover cages or safety restraints

typically found in proper racing vehicles. This would present a major problem should a racer loose control of their vehicle, causing injury or death. I did bring my kids to see the "safety course" and we were only allowed to watch it after signing a liability waiver by an event staffer. Standing by the DHR building, we left after about 10 minutes due to safety concerns from the cornering vehicle's tires pelting us with dirt and debris from the parking lot.

In closing, I feel an event like this has no place at the Central Annex, due to the treatment of citizens by the event organizer, as well as the safety hazards and liability of amateur racing in a non-race track environment. There are better places to have an event, that will be safer for the racers, the general public, and nearby buildings. Regardless of insurance and waivers, I feel this event opens the county up to not only a financial liability, but a moral liability should something happen.

Thank you for your time Commissioner Underwood.

Sincerely,

Jason Bishop