

Letters to the editor

Bettman recall is valid

There have been claims that the Bonny Bettman recall is baseless. But as a representative of Ward 3, Bettman has ignored the cries of resistance from people in her own back yard.

I believe it was wrong of the original plan to offer property (of those she is supposed to represent) up for sale when the property did not belong to her. It is wrong for tenants, property and business owners to lose their property through condemnation against their will. Especially at a time when many are away for the summer and unable to voice their concerns. It is also damaging toward the integrity of the historic homes in the area as the suggested plan was to move the homes to a new site. I respect the attempts to recycle the housing, but removing a house from its original location destroys the integrity of the building and makes it impossible for state recognition as a historic site.

In addition, the removal of the buildings promotes sprawl because the housing is being removed from the city's core. I wish PeaceHealth would remain downtown, but not at the sake of removing working-class citizens from their homes by pulling the rug from underneath their feet. Bettman is supposed to represent these individuals, but instead has supported an industry. Despite the public outcry, there's still support for the downtown site.

Andrea Lewis
senior
planning, public policy
and management

Cell phones not the only cause of hazardous driving

Cellular phone usage, according to Russell Weller's commentary (ODE Aug. 9) is a debilitating disease that forces all users to become

maniacs on the expressway. While his stories are legitimate, haven't we all been run off the road by any type of driver doing any sort of task while driving? Be it applying make-up, eating, falling asleep, driving is dangerous and a task reserved for the responsible.

However, for some cellular phones are a boon to their everyday work. Why else would people have paid thousands for their Motorola bricks back in the early '90s?

For many people, the cab of their truck is their office. Being able to be contacted by the outside world is very nice. And while this may cause people to drive while talking on the phone, there are many people who can do this quite well. To cite Russell Weller, he cannot talk on a phone and do anything else. Good for him to be able to admit his weaknesses, but driving with the back of his vehicle blocked by random shopping items sure doesn't help his inability to do two things at once.

I can safely admit that I know people who can concentrate 100 percent on driving and still be a danger to themselves and the people around them. How to solve the problem of dangerous driving? There is none outside of genetic cleansing. Staying aware on the road is the only defense.

Brian Ouellette
Class of 2001

Bettman isn't representing her constituents

I have read two editorials recently stating that the Bonny Bettman recall is not justified. Informed people will decide for themselves. It is no coincidence that those writing letters questioning the re-count are all not residents of the core area of Ward 3. The point of view on campus and in the various prospective "blast zones" is quite a bit different.

Most suspect the summer was chosen as a chance to make a deal

because many who voted for Bettman and would oppose the demolition would be on vacation. The issue is one of representing — not sacrificing — one's constituents. Ganging up with the City Council and PeaceHealth to get condemnation power against those who voted her in has been too much for our small community. As I told Bettman personally two weeks ago, the people are on edge down there. If she had really taken the six blocks "off the table" we might not have an issue.

No matter what the current excuse for this summer of harassment is, the feeling of alienation and disbelief continues. The only way a councilor could safely, aggressively push for large-scale residential condemnation of their own voters is if their home was in the "blast zone."

Zach Vishanoff
chief petitioner
Recall Bettman



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