

My name is Eddie Lawrence, I am a resident of Pine Creek Village, I have been a resident of D20 for 12 years and I grew up in Colorado Springs. We have two children that go to the schools in Pine Creek. Challenger Middle School and Pine Creek High School.

I have watched Colorado Springs grow from a town into a large city and it is a great city to raise a family in. We need to be smart about the growth of our city. Infrastructure has to be in place to sustain the growth. Roads have to be designed with safety in mind, with safe evacuation routes and at least two safe egresses out of the neighborhood. Neighborhoods have to have a criteria for compatibility to preserve their master plan, to preserve their HOA standards. This kind of smart growth needs to be well planned and not fall prey to over development like it has in so many other large cities. Let's not let COS become the next Denver or Portland.

**My chief concerns are Traffic/Evacuation:**

- The Evacuation Traffic Study conducted by the Pine Creek Residents had the roundabout grid locked in under 1 ½ minutes with only 150 cars merging in a staged and controlled fashion. This is less than 5% of the residents participating. In a real life and death evacuation, panic would ensue, and cars would not politely yield to every other car as they did in our staging. (Refer to the submitted evacuation video link.)
- From our findings from the Evacuation Traffic Study, I am deeply concerned for my families safety. In a wildfire situation with high winds approaching from the West and North West there is a very high probability that my family along with many others would die. We would be trapped within the streets of Pine Creek with roads choked off and no way to escape the fire, this would be fatal, and many would lose their lives.
- I have a huge concern for traffic safety in our neighborhood. With the increased population of 232 apartments with an average car ownership in Colorado being 2.5 cars, would add 580 vehicles to a single lane roundabout. With the additional traffic of family, friends, deliveries, services, etc. has the potential to increase our traffic to upwards of 1000 more vehicles.
- The vehicle accidents in this intersection at Royal Pine and Union are already considerably high. In 2020 Colorado Springs set a record for most deadly traffic accidents with 51 fatalities. Adding 232 families to the Pine Creek traffic condensed on less than 8 acres of property all converging onto the single lane roundabout on Royal Pine.
- The Pine Creek High school overcrowding is at its highest point ever. The streets and school are gridlocked 2x a day 5 days a week. There are 5 to 6 rows of traffic trying to merge out of one driveway on the east side of the parking lot and 5 to 6 rows of traffic trying to merge out of the south driveway. In an evacuation situation the outcome would be tragic. (Refer to the submitted video and picture link of an early morning accident in front of the school.)

**Conclusion:**

My request to you today as the planning commission and as residents of COS is to please hear your fellow neighbors. Let's keep our beautifully planned communities intact, let's keep our neighborhoods safe, let's keep COS a wonderful place to raise our kids. As a lifetime citizen of COS, I want to raise my family in a safe and secure neighborhood where we can look forward to the future and not the dread of looming development threatening our way of life. Your vote today against this apartment complex will preserve our wonderful community, preserve our beautiful city against the ideologies of urban sprawl. Let's have smart growth *where there are areas of COS in great need for an uplift* and revitalization, let's focus on where the need truly is in our city.