

**From:** [Marc Kahn](#)  
**To:** [Wiser, Sonja](#)  
**Subject:** Zoning changes for WSU-V  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 08, 2019 10:24:54 AM

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To the Clark County Planning Commission:

I understand that Washington State University Vancouver is seeking approval from the county to modify the "University District" zone. This seems like the appropriate time to address parking issues in the neighborhoods surrounding the campus.

**In short, I would like to propose that the county's approval of ANY expansions or improvements to the WSU-V campus be contingent upon the university providing FREE and adequate parking for the students, staff, and visitors to the campus.**

Here are my reasons:

- As a long-time resident of the Mt. Vista neighborhood, I attended a community outreach meeting hosted by Hal Dengerink of WSU-V, prior to any construction. This was probably 26 years or so ago. During this meeting Mr. Dengerink committed that all improvements to the 350 acres of farmland that they had bought would be done to minimize impact on the surrounding residential community. One of the features that were presented was a lighting system for the parking lots which would be integrated with a canopy of trees to make them essentially invisible to the neighbors on NE 30th Avenue above the campus. That feature was never implemented and the neighbors on 30th Avenue have to look directly at well lit parking lots below them. I do not believe that the university was ever sincere in their lip service that they wanted to be good neighbors. The fact that they have created a situation where students park in our neighborhoods is another manifestation of this dynamic.
- In this day and age, the economic burdens of being a college student are overwhelming. Tuition, books, living expenses, and foregoing employment to devote time to studies forces young people to go into debt to obtain a college education. For the university to require that in addition to these expenses, that students pay for parking is, in my opinion, inappropriate. Apparently, the students agree because they park in our neighborhoods whenever they can, to avoid the fees.
- NE 29th Avenue is a major arterial road. The speed limit is 35 MPH, but through traffic tends to go faster than that. People parallel parking and needing to walk on the road in order to get out of and back into their cars on the driver's side is a safety issue.
- The campus has 350 acres, certainly adequate room to provide free parking. If Clark College can do it, so can WSU-V.
- To address students' parking, the county has posted signs restricting parking in our neighborhoods to residents. While I understand that these restrictions are rarely enforced, it is uncomfortable to think that visitors to our neighborhoods may be breaking the law to park on the street to visit a resident.

Please add my concerns to the testimony being accumulated regarding the proposed zoning changes for WSU-V.

Sincerely,

Marc Kahn

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**From:** mike  
**Sent:** Monday, January 07, 2019 12:47 PM  
**To:** Lebowsky, Laurie  
**Subject:** WSU district code update

Laurie,

Thank you for listening to my concerns regarding the CPZ2019-000026 update and your suggestions.

I live off of 29th Ave, one block from WSU in a development called Avalon Meadows. Due to our close proximity to the campus, we're experiencing an increasing number of students parking in Mt. Vista neighborhoods- particularly in 2018. This impacts residents as it takes away guest parking. It also makes for a hazardous situation trying to egress in and out of Avalon Meadows. Students park right up to the corner causing cars to make wide turns from 29th onto 144th (see attachment). This, by the way, happens up and down 144th and now spreading to 31st Ave. Many of us are frustrated. One of my neighbors driveway was recently blocked and she couldn't get into her garage. In addition to our problem, there is a county park on 29th, directly across from the campus and unfortunately access is unavailable when classes are in session. Student parking blocks anyone else from using the facility. We first approached the University but it was a polite, sorry there is nothing we can do. Local sheriff said the same thing. I'm currently working with Public Works, Ejah Khan, but so far we've not resolved the situation.

I completely understand the issues above are not in your domain since you're involved with the proposed dormitories to be built on campus- however, those issues do provide an all important context. Our concern, with regards to the project, is adequate parking ON CAMPUS if dorms are built. In addition, parking should be free to dorm residents. Our reasoning is, should WSU charge fees, it will only push more students to park in the surrounding neighborhoods- possibly long-term, as it would be easy walking distance to the campus and only exacerbate our problem. My understanding is WSU's parking fee structure is pretty hefty and when half of the students are on Pell grants, you can understand they're trying to save money. WSU must assume responsibility to address the impact they create to the surrounding community. They have the land to do so and as such, adequate parking and free parking should be part of the overall development plan.

Hopefully there can be an amicable solution that serves the needs of WSU students and limit the impact on our neighborhoods and county park.

Respectfully,

Michael Keirstead- 14308 NE 31st Ave in Avalon Meadows

PS: I've attached a photo of one area at the entrance to our development so that you can visualize what our situation is.

