



**City of Laramie
Police Department
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Laramie, WY 82070**

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23 July 2019

TO: Janine Jordan, City Manager

FR: Dale A. Stalder, Chief of Police
Dan Johnson, Fire Chief

RE: 15th Street Access between Grand Avenue and Flint Street

The closure or modification of the 15th Street corridor between Grand Avenue and Flint Street poses many concerns for public safety response and public safety in general for the residents of Laramie.

1. Of critical concern is the Police and Fire Department's ability to traverse the community in a north to south manner. If the PD is forced to move north to south (or south to north) only by using either 9th Street or 22nd Street, if a responding officer is in the core of the community (say on north or south 15th Street), valuable time is going to be lost by having to use either 9th or 22nd Street. It is imperative that we have corridors at many points to traverse the community and with the overall existing road structure of the City already limited because of the University of Wyoming's footprint, losing 15th Street is not acceptable. Similarly, if 15th Street is "calmed" through this section, continual access by emergency responders must be maintained. EMS response can be likened to police response, since often ambulances respond from the field and need the same options for north/south corridors. For Fire and EMS response, it is critical that engines and ambulances continue to have full access to the interior areas abutting 15th Street through this corridor.
2. If we reduce the number of north to south commute lanes, we are going to have increased crashes and vehicle driver conflicts. 15th Street is a major commute route and by forcing traffic to both, or either, 9th or 22nd Streets, the resulting volumes will have the effect of increasing vehicle conflicts during all commute times, and especially during rush hours.
3. Related, we will increase commute times all along 9th Street since currently there is no traffic control between Iverson Avenue and Harney Street, and anybody attempting to enter 9th street will not be able to get onto 9th without increased traffic control (access, gapping).
4. Parking issues – if no changes are made to 9th Street, you are going to have to remove parking in many places to accommodate turn lanes. The only way to do that without encroaching into rights of way is to restrict parking. This is going to further reduce parking in an area where we already have extreme parking concerns.

The 15th Street corridor must be maintained in some fashion for the safety of the public and especially for public safety response.