

Whatever happened to the ideals of Mayberry, Leave it to Beaver or the Brady Bunch? These all American shows epitomize an ideal of family life and community. Children at play, happily ride by on their skates/scooter/skateboards in a bustling little town. Folks walk by and smile. Not so in White River. Our White River city council has passed Ordinance no. 145, a new anti-childhood ordinance which makes wholesome, healthy activities like skates/scooter/skateboards unlawful. Many of us grew up with the freedom to enjoying skate sports of all kinds. Do we really want to take away these wonderful pastimes from our children?

I understand that some rules may be needed on Main Street and around city buildings during busy business hours. An individual business has a right to post no skating signs on their property. But this ban includes Main Street, Highway 83 and Roosevelt Street and all streets that cross them. Every street in White River crosses these streets. It just goes too far. I often see children riding their scooters at the north end of main or by the school. While many folks might think 'the police will never take their children's toys away.' This law is meant to do exactly this to someone's children.

Skate sports are a wholesome, inexpensive way to keep our children active and out of trouble. This ordinance criminalizes children who are just being children, and making healthy choices in at town with very little for children to do. Strong communities have bike trails and residential sidewalks where families can exercise and have fun keeping fit. However, in White River skating children are being singled out and expelled from precious strips of concrete all over town.

Ordinance no. 145 is just like telling horseriders, 'you have a rodeo grounds, operate your horse there.' Operating horses in town can be dangerous to the rider, as well as others. But for the most part this is an excellent activity. This ordinance just makes no sense. We as a community must learn to respect each other and our choices of beneficial activities.

With the advent of our new skate park drawing closer (attributable to the heart and dedication of our local skating youth) many families will take up skating of all kinds. Ordinance no. 145 just made it unlawful for families to skate basically everywhere in town. Please call or write our local city council and let them know we are a pro-childhood town and ordinance no. 145 should be repealed.

Submitted by  
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3-22-10