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Moab, UT 84532
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Sheriff White
25 S. 100 E.Moab, UT 84532

Dear City Council:

There should be no age exception for life jackets on the Colorado River.

I would like to tell you all of the facts about drowning's I found on the internet from reliable sources. By facts I mean evidence I have to change the law about life jackets. I want to change the law on life jackets. The part of the law where it says if you're 13 or older you aren't required to wear a life jacket is, well ridiculous. Not ridiculous where the law shouldn't be like that, but ridiculous as in it should be a higher age and maybe even just change the law so life jackets are required! You could make it 1000 years old. Here is some of my evidence.

First, the number of deaths is way too much. I gathered information from many different sites, making sure they weren't the same things. I found a total of 69 drowning's, luckily only 2 of those were in Moab, that I could find. Plus, I only counted the ones where they drowned. I bet at least 80 of those could've been saved! I say 80 because I think an average of 11 lives can be saved from changing this law! I even saw an article that said from 2004-2008 there were 188 deaths! That may not seem like a lot in a four year span. But it is!

I really love the river. I bet I go on it at least 10 times a year! Not to mention how much time I spend on it! Probably around 50 or more hours combined every year. And the people's family who drowned probably hate the river now. That is bad because we lose some money and some reputation for being an awesome town. I found out that in 2009 over 700 people died from boating accidents in the nation. 70% of those deaths died from drowning. Even more surprising, 90% weren't wearing life jackets! This is reliable because it is all on a website that the U.S. Coast Guard is related to. So all credit to them for doing the math.

Another piece of evidence I have is, why is there an age exception? Like I said in the beginning if there is going to be an age exception, then make it something strange like 1000 years old. But no it's 13 or older and you don't have to wear a life jacket. Me personally, and probably tons of other people want this law changed. Maybe you could

change it to 20-40 years and no health problems. But not 13 or older! Because what if the person is sick! I mean it would be common sense to wear a life jacket but still! Anyways, like I said earlier, if you could change it to 20-40 years old. It might make an impact on the number of deaths. You could even do a survey and ask what people think it should be! Or if it should even be changed.

That brings me onto my next subject! Some ideas to change the law. Something you could do is just have literally no age exceptions! Or at least raise the age to like 18, and then you don't have to wear a life jacket. But, if you're younger you are required to wear a life jacket. Also, I have noticed that people don't wear life jackets meant for the river which is dumb. I see people with lake life jackets. I'm going to tell you a story regarding lake jackets. I was once on the river with one of my neighbors and good friend, Neo Hill, and we saw someone going really fast on the river. He was driving a jet ski going around 30-55 miles per hour! I don't know how fast you're allowed to go, but he was going fast! The worst part, he didn't even have a river life jacket, which really upset Neo's dad. Which at first I didn't understand, but then he told me about lake jackets. A Lake jacket is terrible for the river because the river is fast flowing water. Those life jackets are made for calm and slow moving waters.

Well, that's my letter! Thanks for taking your time to listen to me. I appreciate it, and I hope you decide to take action like I did. So I encourage you to make a change! The river season is coming up fast so make haste! Let's try to have 0 deaths on the Colorado River this year! You could also have more common boat patrols and even more training. Mike was pretty happy last year when he saw some people from the, (Correct me if I'm wrong) Sheriff's Office training for river rescue!. I was pretty happy that they were doing something! I'm pretty sure this is too big for a letter regarding this but I really do want a change to this law!

Sincerely,

Brett Reed