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Comments: As a resident of the City of Mena, I am in support of the proposed Trails at Mena project. As the Prosecuting Attorney for Polk and Montgomery Counties, I am aware the impact a safe and healthy citizenry has on crime rates. Happy, healthy people are less likely to engage in criminal activity. The Trails at Mena project is a vital investment in our community's future, offering numerous benefits that will not only enhance the quality of life for our residents but also contribute to a safer environment for all.

Increased Physical Activity and Community Health: Bike trails provide a readily accessible venue for residents to engage in physical activity. This not only promotes individual well-being but also fosters a sense of community as residents utilize the trails for exercise and recreation. A healthier population means a lower burden on our healthcare system and a more active and engaged citizenry.

Reduced Crime Rates: Studies have consistently shown a correlation between increased physical activity and lower crime rates. Bike trails create vibrant public spaces that encourage residents to spend time outdoors, fostering a sense of community ownership and deterring criminal activity. Furthermore, visitors attracted by a mountain biking trail system are statistically unlikely to increase crime rates. Additionally, more jobs and improved economic opportunities for our citizens are likely to have a positive impact on our already low crime rates.

Economic Benefits: Bike trails attract tourism and boost local businesses. Cyclists who utilize the trails often patronize nearby restaurants, shops, and other establishments. The project will contribute to the economic vitality of our community.

In conclusion, the Trails at Mena project offers a multitude of benefits for our community. It promotes safety, health, economic growth, and a stronger sense of community. I urge all involved to give this project their full support.