



Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa Committee Report – May 2009

Committee: Government Affairs/City Services

Committee chairperson: John Ramey

Meeting date: Tuesday, May 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Mission: To serve as a practical and direct resource for stakeholders needing the services of government agencies and city services to resolve quality of life issues.

Goals: To identify issues of concern to the community, and then develop, in a timely manner, information and guidelines that will provide stakeholders with the resources that are needed to be proactive in resolving their concerns. This information will be collected by the committee, then distributed and continually updated in print and the via the internet.

Monthly report: At the Committee Meeting on May 15th, the Committee heard a presentation from a representative from the Playa Vista Homeowner's Association (PVPAL) regarding its request from the support of the Committee and the NCWP in seeking the creation of a blinking crosswalk for Pedestrian Traffic crossing Jefferson Boulevard from Playa Vista Drive north of Jefferson Boulevard to Playa Vista Drive south of Jefferson Boulevard.

The Playa Vista resident who presented the request noted that there have been a number of incidents in which vehicles turning left onto westbound Jefferson from Playa Vista Drive south of Jefferson and left onto eastbound Jefferson from Playa Vista Drive north of Jefferson, as well as vehicles turning right onto westbound Jefferson from Playa Vista Drive north of Jefferson and right onto eastbound Jefferson from Playa Vista Drive south of Jefferson have narrowly missed pedestrians crossing from Jefferson from Playa Vista Drive north of Jefferson to Playa Vista Drive south of Jefferson (and vice-versa) while the pedestrians were utilizing the marked pedestrian crosswalk. While such vehicles are required by law to yield to such pedestrians, vehicles are attempting such turns in front of or behind these pedestrians, which presents danger to these pedestrians. The creation of a "blinking crosswalk" would better serve to alert such operators of vehicles that there is a pedestrian crosswalk at the location in question, and to be on the alert for pedestrians making use of he crosswalk.

Following a question and answer session a motion was presented to support the creation of the blinking crosswalk, and the motion was approved unanimously by the Committee. The motion requests that the NCWP write a letter of support to the Department of Transportation and/or any other applicable municipal agency in favor of a Blinking Crosswalk for Pedestrian Traffic crossing Jefferson Boulevard from Playa Vista Drive north of Jefferson Boulevard to Playa Vista Drive south of Jefferson Boulevard.

The Committee also heard a presentation regarding the allowance of permitted parking on Cum Laude Drive, where parking is currently prohibited at all times, to allow resident parking by permit. The presenter noted that there is a shortage of available street parking for residents on adjacent streets, including 91st Street, 92nd Street and St. Bernard Street. Since Cum Laude Drive has no residential dwellings the Committee noted that it would be difficult to comply with the petition process for gathering of resident signatures, since there are no residents on Cum Laude Drive, and it was instead suggested that the presenter contact Council member Rosendahl's office to present the request that the restriction of no parking permitted at any time be lifted to allow for parking on Cum Laude Drive. The presenter has since been in communication with Jim Kennedy at Council member Rosendahl's office, and the request is under review.

The Committee last discussed the passage of a motion in October of 2007 regarding the creation Stakeholders residing in Westport Heights (Residential District 9 of the Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa(hereinafter "the Council")) have expressed concerns concerning a traffic problem occurring on weekday mornings on 76th Street in Westport Heights wherein traffic is backed up considerably down 76th Street easterly to La Tijera Boulevard by cars waiting to turn right onto Sepulveda Boulevard from a single lane of traffic from which such right turns are permitted. In order to alleviate the problem, these stakeholders have requested the creation of an optional straight/right turn lane from the middle lane of westbound 76th Street to allow for a second lane of traffic to proceed north onto Sepulveda Boulevard.

Following a presentation by Frances Stronks, District Representative for Residential District 9 for the Council, the Government Affairs/City Services Committee for the Council voted 8-0 to support a motion to have the Council submit a letter to the DOT in support of creating an optional straight/right turn lane from the middle lane of westbound 76th Street onto northbound Sepulveda Boulevard. This motion was in turn made and passed at the regular meeting of the Council's Board of Directors on October 2, 2007.

It is unclear if a letter was sent from the Council after passage of the motion, as a copy cannot be located. Whether such a letter was sent or not, the problem has only worsened in the eighteen months since the motion was passed, and the request was made that the Council renew its request that an optional straight/right turn lane from the middle lane of westbound 76th Street onto northbound Sepulveda Boulevard be created to alleviate this continuing problem. A letter to this effect has been drafted and will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Council on June 2nd.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on Tuesday, June 16th at 6:30 p.m. at Westchester Christian Church.