



## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Public Safety

From: Rick Brown, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

Date: July 8, 2019

Re: Woodcliff Heights Subdivision –Traffic Concerns

Council Member Lauren Edens forwarded the attached letter for the consideration of the Board of Public Safety. The letter, which is from the trustees of Woodcliff Heights subdivision, provides their concerns with regard to speeding traffic on Strecker Road and Woodcliff Heights Drive. (Please see **Exhibit 1** below for a location map. Here is a google map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/xxnojHuwB4d6p7mq8>.) The trustee concerns can be summarized as follows:

### **Speeding Traffic on Woodcliff Heights Drive**

Residents are concerned with speeding traffic on Woodcliff Heights Drive and are requesting the installation of an all-way stop sign at Woodcliff Heights Court in order to slow traffic. The Wildwood Precinct Police have been working to address this concern. For your review, I have attached the results of a speed survey completed during June 2016 for this location. From this survey, the 85th Percentile speed was determined to be 27 mph, while the posted speed limit is 25 mph. Woodcliff Heights Drive, in the area of Woodcliff Heights Court, was constructed on a steep grade (12%), and thus, it is expected that traffic going downhill is speeding, however, uphill traffic is likely to be traveling at or under the speed limit. The Wildwood Precinct has agreed to complete an additional speed survey at this location in order to provide updated data.

Regarding the request to install an all-way stop, the Department does not recommend the installation of stop signs for speed control purposes. The installation of stop signs for speed control is a misapplication of their intended use and is contrary to national standards for traffic control. In addition, the Department feels that the installation of stop signs on a street with a steep gradient, such as Woodcliff Heights Drive, could be problematic during ice and snow conditions.

### **Speeding Traffic on Strecker Road**

Residents are also concerned about speeding traffic on Strecker Road, in the vicinity of Woodcliff Heights Drive. They feel that speeding traffic on Strecker Road is making turns onto southbound Strecker Road, from Woodcliff Heights Drive, more difficult. Attached is a speed survey for Strecker Road from 2016 which indicates the 85th Percentile speed was 38 mph, while the posted speed limit is 30 mph. The Wildwood Precinct has agreed to complete an additional speed survey at this location and that work is currently in progress. Due to the speeding traffic on Strecker Road, at Woodcliff Heights Drive, residents have requested the consideration of several items, including installation of an all-way stop, lighting or a mirror.

Regarding the request to install an all-way stop, the Department would not recommend this strictly for speed control, for the reasons stated above. To evaluate the safety of the intersection, the Department conducted a field study to determine the existing sight distance on Woodcliff Heights Drive, at Strecker Road, looking to the south and the north. We found the existing sight distance to exceed the required standard. Please see the table below and **Exhibit 2 and 3**.

<b>Sight Distance – Woodcliff Heights Drive at Strecker Road</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Required Standard</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Looking South	445'*	881'
Looking North	445'*	527'

(\*St. Louis County standard - assumes 40 mph traffic speed on Strecker Road)

In addition, the Wildwood Precinct reported, that since 2014, there have been no reported crashes on Strecker Road at Woodcliff Heights Drive.

Regarding the installation of a streetlight, the trustees would need to work with Ameren regarding the installation of a dusk to dawn streetlight at Woodcliff Heights Drive and Strecker Road. By policy, the City does not maintain streetlights outside of the Town Center area. A mirror could be installed by the Department of Public Works; however, this is typically done where the sight distance does not meet the required standard.

Captain Mundel and I will be available for any questions or comments pertaining to this matter at the July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Public Safety.

RCB

Dear Ray and Lauren,

Woodcliff Heights subdivision would like to thank you for attending our recent HOA meeting on April 24th. It was a pleasure to meet both of you and we look forward to working with you to make Wildwood a better community for all.

The trustees wanted to follow up with you on a couple of items that we discussed at the meeting.

### **Speeding**

We continue to have people drive through the subdivision at excessive speeds creating a safety issue for residents and children. Scott Nicholas had previously reached out to Wildwood and the Wildwood precinct of the St. Louis County Police to address this issue. As a result, the police placed a box to monitor speed and even placed officers for a physical presence and traffic monitoring at the intersection of Woodcliff Heights Drive and Woodcliff Heights Court. While this was short lived, the problem continues to exist. We have overwhelming support from the subdivision residents and the Trustees for the placement of a 3-way stop intersection located at the intersection of Woodcliff Heights Dr. and Woodcliff Heights Court. We feel this is the low cost and effective solution needed to address the safety issue at hand.

We also have excessive speeding on Strecker Road that is creating an ingress and egress safety issue at the subdivision entrance for residents. Wildwood and St. Louis county police are very familiar with this issue and the police use our entrance to park, monitor and pursue speeders! Compounding this safety issue is the fact that a blind spot was created from the poor placement of the retaining wall on Strecker Road south of the subdivision entrance. Residents have to almost pull into the northbound lane of traffic to see if it is clear to pull out. This topped with speeding on Strecker is creating a lot of opportunity for car accidents. The residents and Trustees fully support the placement of a 3-way stop at this location as a low-cost solution to eliminate these safety issues. In addition, a mirror would be helpful as well.

### **Lighting**

Lighting is a safety issue at the subdivision entrance on Strecker as well. We currently have no light at our entrance which seems to be the standard elsewhere in Wildwood and surrounding communities. Our subdivision entrance lighting has been redone to better illuminate the entrance but the limited sight on Strecker from both directions needs attention. With the residents and trustees overwhelming support, we request the city put a light at the entrance of the subdivision to help illuminate.

We look forward to working with you and what to thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

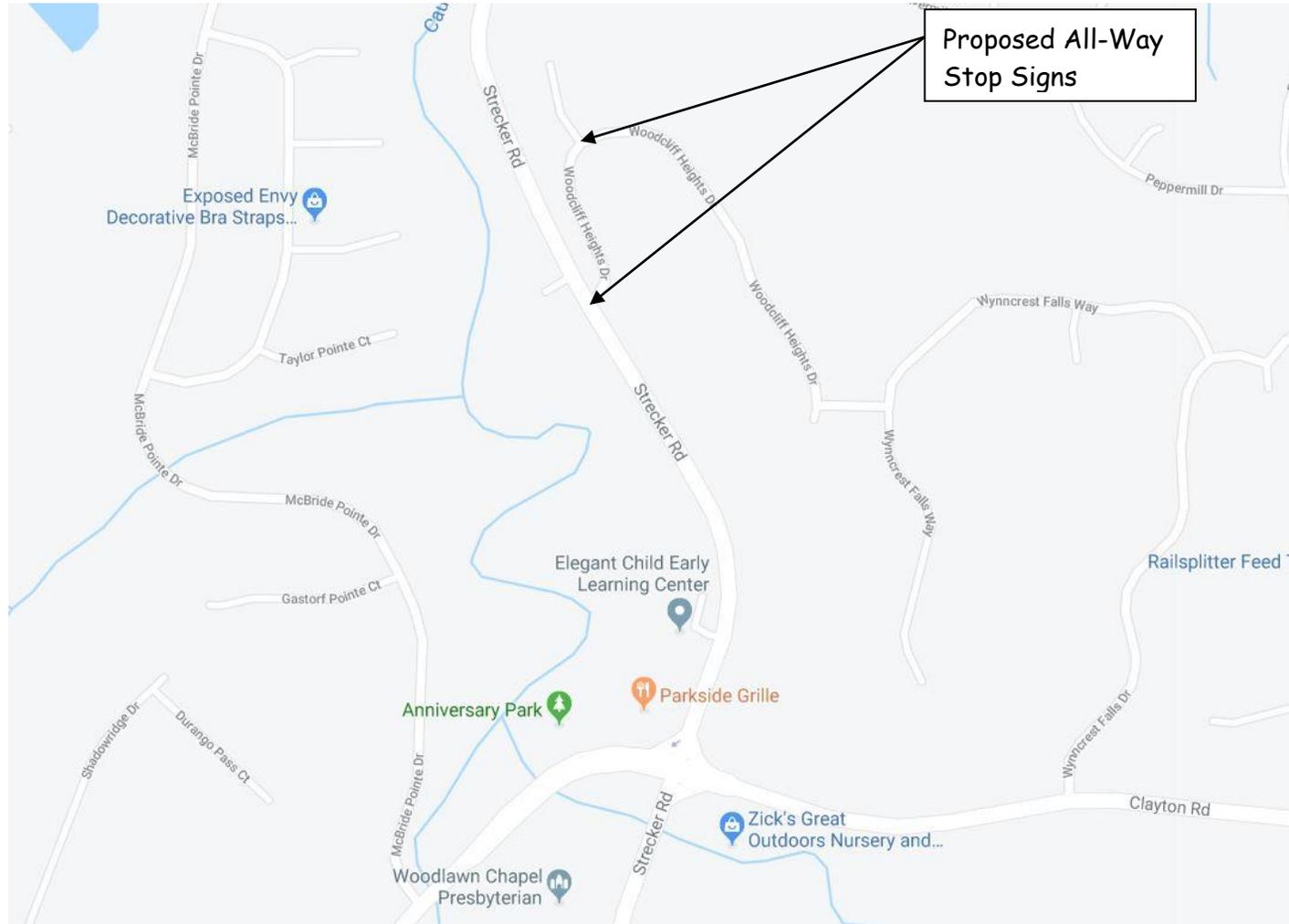
Talayna Marco

Jeanne Whitley

Scott Nicholas



# WILDWOOD



**Exhibit 1 – Location Map**



**Exhibit 2 – Existing Sight Distance – Strecker Road Looking South**



**Exhibit 3 – Existing Sight Distance - Strecker Road Looking South**



## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2016

TO: CAPTAIN TIM TANNER, Precinct Commander  
Wildwood Precinct

FROM: P.O. JOHN BOEHMER, Traffic Officer  
Wildwood Precinct

SUBJECT: JAMAR TRAFFIC SURVEY – Woodcliff Heights Drive

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Please find attached the Jamar Traffic Survey report as requested for Woodcliff Heights Drive. I conducted a six-day traffic survey beginning on 06-02-2016 (08:00am) through 06-08-2016 (8:00am). Below is a summary of the activity at the requested location during the survey. The summary and detailed reports are attached.

**06-02-2016 to 06-08-2016 (6-day period both directions)**

Highest Speed (5mph range) – 31-35mph

Average Speed – 22mph

Vehicle Count – 1261

Speed Limit – 25mph

Number of vehicles over 25mph – 393 (31.2%)

50<sup>th</sup> Percentile – 22mph    85<sup>th</sup> Percentile – 27mph

01-20mph – 378

21-25mph – 490

26-30mph – 342

31-35mph – 51

Cc. Lieutenant Michael Reifschneider



## INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2017

TO: CAPTAIN TIM TANNER, Precinct Commander  
Wildwood Precinct

FROM: P.O. JOHN BOEHMER, Traffic Officer  
Wildwood Precinct

SUBJECT: JAMAR TRAFFIC SURVEY – Strecker Road South of Clayton Road

Please find attached the Jamar Traffic Survey report as requested for Strecker Road South of Clayton Road. I conducted a seven-day traffic survey beginning on 03-02-2017 (07:00am) through 03-09-2017 (06:00am). Below is a summary of the activity at the requested location during the survey. The summary and detailed reports are attached.

**03-02-2017 to 03-09-2017 (7-day period both directions)**

Highest Speed (5mph range) – 41-45mph

Average Speed – 31mph

Vehicle Count – 25780

Speed Limit – 30mph

Number of vehicles over 30mph – 19271 (74.8%)

50<sup>th</sup> Percentile – 33mph    85<sup>th</sup> Percentile – 38mph

1-25mph – 4347

26-30mph – 2162

31-35mph – 8836

36-40mph – 8582

41-45mph – 1853

Cc. Lieutenant Michael Reifschneider