



## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Public Safety

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

Date: November 5, 2019

Re: Woodcliff Heights Subdivision –Traffic Concerns

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Earlier this year, the Board heard from the trustees of Woodcliff Heights subdivision, regarding their concerns with 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. As was previously reported, during June 2016 the Wildwood Precinct completed a speed survey for Woodcliff Heights Drive over a six-day period. The results of the study were that the 50<sup>th</sup> Percentile speed was 22 mph, and the 85<sup>th</sup> Percentile speed was 27 mph. The posted speed limit is 25 mph. Woodcliff Heights Drive, in the area of Woodcliff Heights Court, was constructed on a steep grade (12%).

### **Use of Stop Signs for Speed Control**

Regarding the request to install an all-way stop, the Department does not recommend the installation of stop signs solely 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. Installation of unwarranted stop signs, contrary to national standards, creates liability for the City and penalizes law abiding motorists that are obeying the speed limit. Furthermore, traffic studies have shown that motorists increase their speeds in response the installation of unwarranted stop signs, to make up for the additional delay incurred due to the stop. The installation of unwarranted stop signs results in motorist rolling stops, as they recognize them as being unnecessary. Finally, 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. The existing speed limit, on Strecker Road, at this location is 30 mph.

After this concern was previously heard by the Board, the Wildwood Precinct agreed to complete speed surveys on Strecker Road, near Woodcliff Heights Drive, after the bridge on Strecker Road over Caulks Creek was completed, and normal traffic patterns resumed. The results of the two additional speed surveys are shown in the table below.

<b>Speed Surveys – Strecker Road at Woodcliff Heights Drive</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>50<sup>th</sup> % Speed</b>	<b>85<sup>th</sup> % Speed</b>
8/14/19-8/21/19	40 mph	44 mph
10/16/19-10/23/19	37 mph	42 mph

Unfortunately, the speed surveys are indicating that traffic speed are exceeding the posted speed limit, although with no apparent crash history, this would suggest that a 30-mph speed limit in this area of Strecker Road is unreasonable. However, due to the traffic speeds on Strecker Road at Woodcliff Heights Drive, residents have requested the consideration of several items, including installation of an all-way stop, dusk to dawn lighting or a traffic 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 engineering standard necessary to make a safe turn onto Strecker Road from Woodcliff Heights Drive. 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	500' *	881'
Looking North	500' *	527'

(\*Standard for 45 mph traffic speed on Strecker Road)

### **Crash History**

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

### **Recommendations**

- **Enforcement** – Consistent enforcement of the existing speed limit should help reduce the traffic speeds on Strecker Road near Woodcliff Heights Drive, however, the resources of the Wildwood Precinct are limited. The existing 30 mph speed limit in this area of Strecker Road may be overly conservative and unrealistic to obtain through enforcement without additional resources.
- **Street-Light** - Regarding a dusk to dawn streetlight, an installation at the intersection of Strecker Road with Woodcliff Heights Drive would provide a benefit to motorists during nighttime hours. By policy, the City does not maintain streetlights outside of the Town Center area, thus, the trustees would need to request this installation be provided by Ameren.
- **Traffic Mirror** - The Department is not opposed to the installation of a mirror, if a suitable location can be found, however, this is typically done where the sight distance does not meet the required standard.
- **Intersection Warning Sign** - The Department is recommending the installation of an intersection warning sign, in advance of Woodcliff Heights Drive on Strecker Road, both

northbound and southbound. This sign could include a separate plate, which would indicate the streetname “Woodcliff Heights Drive” (see **Exhibit 4**)

Captain Mundel and I will be available for any questions or comments pertaining to this matter at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Public Safety.

RCB



# WILDWOOD

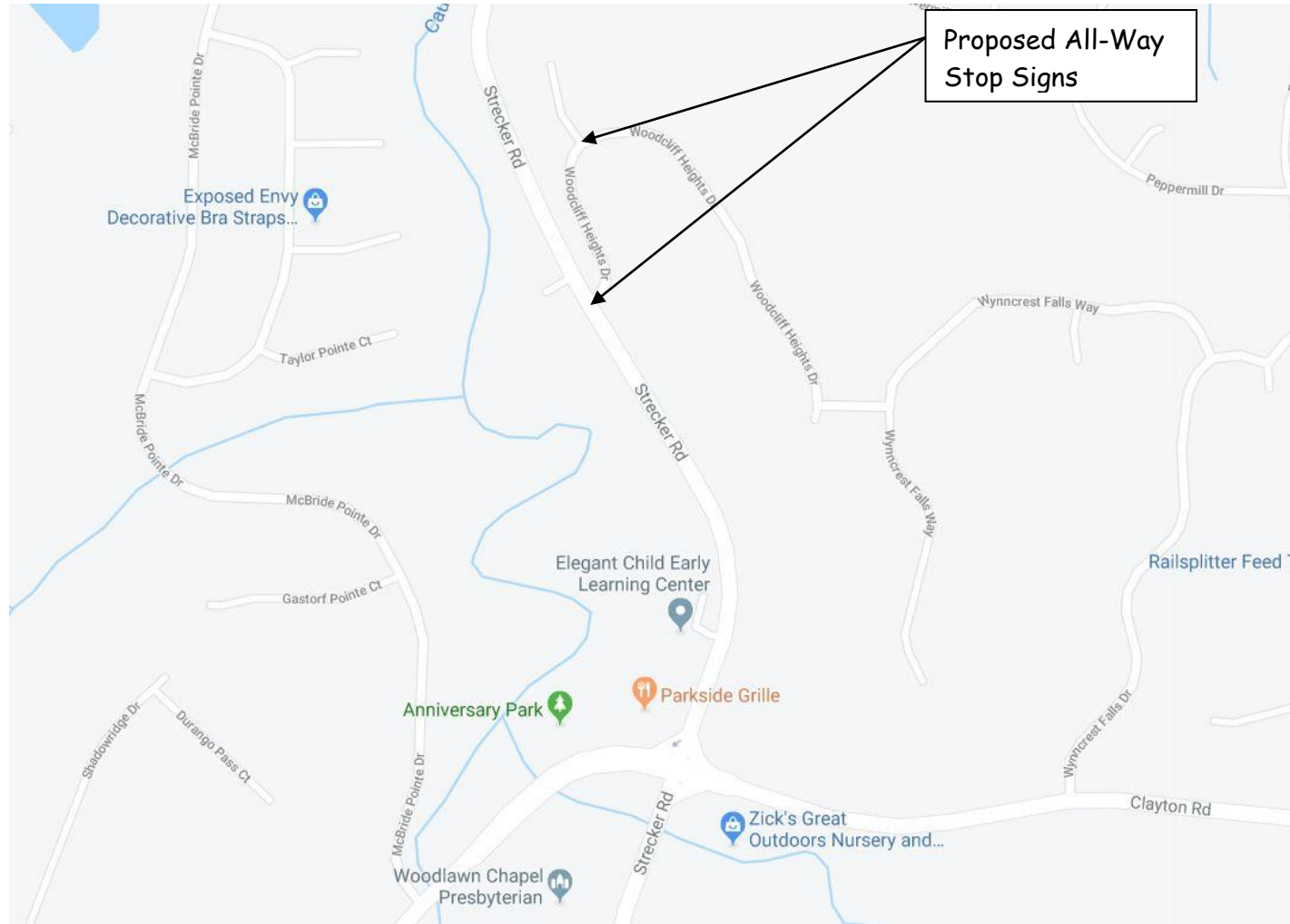


Exhibit 1 – Location Map



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





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



**Exhibit 4.**  
**Proposed Intersection Warning Sign**