



## STUDENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMISSION

# Agenda

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011  
6:00 P.M.

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE  
SAN MARCOS, CA 92069  
(760) 744-1050  
[WWW.SAN-MARCOS.NET](http://WWW.SAN-MARCOS.NET)

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL
4. APPROVAL OF 9/13/10 and 12/13/10 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** (*This is the public's opportunity to address the Commission on items not on the agenda.*)

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes. Please complete a "Request to Speak" form & place in basket.
6. NEW BUSINESS
  - Brightwood Drive
7. COMMISSION COMMENTARY
8. ADJOURNMENT

**Attachments:** Agenda Item #4 - Commission Meeting Minutes for 9/13/10, 12/13/10; Notes for 1/10/11

### AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO ) ss.  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS )

I, Melinda Cogle, Recording Secretary, of the City of San Marcos, hereby certify that I caused the posting of this agenda in the glass display case at the north entrance of City Hall on Monday, February 14, 2011, at 3:30 pm.

Date: February 14, 2011

Melinda Cogle, Recording Secretary

**MINUTES**  
**STUDENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF SAN MARCOS**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**1 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE SAN MARCOS, CALIFORNIA 92069**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.

- 1) CALL TO ORDER:** Chairwoman Quinn called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- 2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Provided by Chairwoman Quinn.
- 3) ROLL CALL:**

**Present:**

**COMMISSIONERS:** FIGUEROA, HILL, MARTINEZ, PADILLA, PARIS, QUINN, TITUS

**Absent:**

**COMMISSIONERS:** KILDOO, PRIEST

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy City Manager Romero, Housing & Neighborhood Services Division Director Schwarm, and Recording Secretary Cogle.

- 4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A correction was made to the 7/12/10 Minutes, page 6, Commissioner Commentary, second paragraph, correcting the spelling of Panetta Institute.

**MOVED BY TITUS, SECONDED BY MARTINEZ, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 7/12/10, 6:30 P.M. AS CORRECTED.**

<b>AYES:</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS:</b> FIGUEROA, HILL, MARTINEZ, PARIS, TITUS
<b>NOES:</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS:</b> NONE
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS:</b> KILDOO, PRIEST
<b>ABSTENTION:</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS:</b> PADILLA, QUINN

- 5) PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Dr. Eloise Stiglitz, CSUSM VP of Student Affairs was in attendance and introduced.

- 6) PRESENTATIONS**

Start Smart Program Overview: Sgt. Cinnamo provided a presentation on Start Smart and explained that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department has been tasked to address the issue of teen drinking and distracted driving to prevent injury or death as a result of poor choices or illegal actions while operating a motor vehicle. The Sheriff's Department will be providing a presentation at Mission Hills High School on 9/15/10 at 6:30 PM. The Start Smart program will be mandatory at both high school campuses beginning second semester to obtain a parking permit.

**7) REPORTS**

Sheriff's Department Report: Sgt. Giannantonio was promoted to Lieutenant and will be leaving the San Marcos Sheriff's Station. His replacement, Sgt. Mark Moreno, attended the meeting and was introduced. Lt. Giannantonio provided statistics for the last 2 months and reported that noise and party calls are up slightly compared to the same reporting timeframe last year.

Commissioner Martinez requested Sgt. Cinnamo provide an update on how the Start Smart classes went to the Commission after the first semester.

Rooming House Report: Director Schwarm provided a report of rooming house complaints for the past four years. Rooming house ordinance complaints are up and an arrest was made a couple of weeks ago at a former rooming house/party house complainant's residence. Deputies had been called to the house 17 times in the past 12 months after a citation had been written for noise to the tenants. Property owner has been contacted and cited.

Commissioner Hill asked the following questions: 1) that the call was a noise related call and not a rooming house call? 2) was the residence inspected? 3) did the fine relate to a rooming house violation or a noise violation? Director Schwarm clarified the following regarding Commissioner Hill's questions: 1) the complaint call was related to both rooming house and noise violations and the property owner stated there were five people living at the residence; 2) a follow up inspection was conducted by Code Compliance; 3) two citations were given for a total of \$100 – one for noise and one for exceeding the number of people residing at the home per the rooming house ordinance.

Romero confirmed the rooming house ordinance complaints will be reviewed annually in July. Romero explained that if a complaint is made for a potential rooming house ordinance violation and other complaints are also made associated with noise and/or trash, code compliance will investigate and a violation notice issued accordingly which allows time for the violation to be corrected prior to a citation /fine being issued.

**8) COMMISSION COMMENTARY**

Commissioner Hill commented that her position remains that the rooming house ordinance, as written, is not needed.

Commissioner Figuero reported that they are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school at CSUSM. CSUSM continues with TSSA to register 10% of their population at CSUSM, including the community who are not students. Homecoming is scheduled the week of October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Titus introduced Commissioner Cassandra Padilla and announced the grand opening was held for Palomar's new health sciences building.

Commissioner Padilla reported she has been at Palomar for 3 years and is pursuing a political science major.

Commissioner Martinez reported that President Haynes's University Council met September 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 9,582 students on campus opening day; the vision for 2015 was discuss as well as budget uncertainties and the impacts to the campus. It was mentioned that out of the 9,000+ students at CSUSM, 900 students are veterans (active duty or

dependents). The CSUSM Gala raised \$50,000 for scholarships. President Haynes was congratulated for being nominated for one of San Diego magazines 2010 Women Who Move The City finalists – the winner will be announced September 15<sup>th</sup>. CSUSM President's Annual Report to the Community is scheduled for Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 and Commissioner Martinez invited Commissioners to join him at his table for the event.

Romero explained she hopes to get with the City Attorney to review the 14 page draft Entertainment Ordinance and present it to the Commission at the October meeting for consideration.

Chair Quinn reported the University Convocation was held on August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Escondido Center for the Arts and highlights included: retention of first time freshman increased by 4% and remediation rates in English and math increased by 5%. CSUSM has been designated a Hispanic serving institution and awarded its first HIS grant of \$250,000 for a project through the department of biology. The HSI designation benefits all students. The campus was named the winner of San Diego Excellence in Energy award for a comprehensive energy conservation project. Cal State's current recycling rate is 72% which they were acknowledged as nationwide recycle-mania champions for several years running. CSUSM has been designated by GI Jobs Magazine on its list of military friendly schools which honors the top 15% of colleges, universities and trade schools across the country doing the most to embrace American veterans as students.

Romero responded to Commissioner Martinez's inquiry relating to the status of student housing and reported the developer is moving forward and plans to break ground later this year to be in line for the 2012 school year.

Romero responded to Commissioner Hill's inquiry of what if the student housing development is started and is unable to proceed because it is unaffordable by stating that the development is private with a private developer and one cannot pontificate or surmise what will happen on an eventuality that may or may not happen. Commissioner Hill stated she realizes it is speculation but one in a city position does need to speculate to some degree to avoid problems or if one finds one's self in them to have a plan already in place.

9) **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

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SARA QUINN, CHAIR  
STUDENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMISSION  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS

ATTEST:

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MELINDA COGLE, RECORDING SECRETARY  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS

**AGENDA ITEM**  
# 4

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010 – 6:30 P.M.

**1) CALL TO ORDER** - Chairwoman Quinn called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Provided by Chairwoman Quinn.**

### 3) ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS: FIGUEROA, KILDOO, QUINN, TITUS  
**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONERS: MARTINEZ, PADILLA, PARIS, PRIEST

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy City Manager Romero, Division Director Schwarm, Analyst Weinheimer, and Recording Secretary Cogle.

#### 4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting were not approved and continued to the next regular scheduled meeting due to lack of a quorum.

## 5) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No members of the public requested to speak.

## 6) PRESENTATIONS

Chair Quinn announced the resignation of Commissioner Hill and a proclamation in recognition of her service was read into the record as Commissioner Hill was not present.

Dan Weinheimer, city staff, provided a presentation and overview of San Marcos Saturday's program. WEINHEIMER responded to INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONER questions as follows: 1) the first San Marcos Saturday event will be held on January 22, 2011; 2) seniors are defined as 65 years and older; 3) disabled persons will be determined on a case-by-case basis by staff who will meet with the individual(s) and evaluate; 4) fencing replacement/repair will not be included in the program in the beginning but could be considered in the future with community donations; 5) some equipment from the VIBE can be used for the San Marcos Saturdays program and volunteers will be asked to bring equipment they have also; and, 6) city staff will assess property and equipment needs and provide a list of materials needed online.

## 7) REPORTS

Sheriff's Department Report: Sgt. Moreno was not present as he was working at the Holiday Watch program. Director Schwarm provided the Sheriff's Department report which showed a decrease in total noise calls, party calls and party related fight calls.

**AGENDA ITEM**  
**# 4**

Code Compliance Report: Direct Schwarm reported that not many rooming house complaints are being received and that residents/tenants have become wise and are not inviting officers to enter the premises during other complaint call inquiries/investigations.

**8) NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Quinn reported she will not be in town for the January meeting and requested Commissioner Kildoo chair the January meeting. Commissioners in attendance concurred and Deputy City Manager Romero will poll the absent Commissioners for concurrence.

**9) COMMISSION COMMENTARY**

Commissioner Figueroa reported finals are taking place at CSUSM. President Haynes approved the proposal to extend library hours during finals. Tuition increases are planned for both the spring and fall semesters.

Commissioner Titus reported Palomar also have finals occurring. Construction continues on campus with newer buildings more specific to areas of study. The Foundation Gala fundraiser recently raised \$160,000.

Chair Quinn reported that she and Deputy City Manager Romero attended the Town Gown conference in October. CSUSM one year continuation for first time freshmen retention rate increased to 77.3% which is a 3% increase from the previous year. There was also a 19% increase in African American student retention. CSUSM women's cross country team won the national title. CSUSM partnered with the Red Cross during the destruction of the Escondido bomb house and provided an evacuation site on campus. Commencement will be back 2011.

Deputy City Manager Romero reported the SNRC 2011 meeting dates were provided to the Commission at the dais. The city is hopeful student representatives at both campuses will spread the word regarding San Marcos Saturdays. Staff can provide a shorter San Marcos Saturday's presentation to student groups and/or other local organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis, etc.

**9) ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Quinn adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

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Sara Quinn, CHAIR  
STUDENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMISSION  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS

ATTEST:

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MELINDA COGLE, RECORDING SECRETARY  
CITY OF SAN MARCOS

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER** – Acting Chairwoman Kildoo called the meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.
- 2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Provided by Acting Chairwoman Kildoo.

### 3) ROLL CALL

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS: KILDOO, MARTINEZ, PARIS, TITUS  
**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONERS: FIGUEORA, PADILLA, QUINN

**ALSO PRESENT:** Deputy City Manager Romero, Division Director Schwarm, and Recording Secretary Cogle.

#### 4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meetings were not approved and continued to the next regular rescheduled meeting due to lack of a quorum.

## 5) ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No members of the public requested to speak.

## 6) PRESENTATIONS

The Commission presented a Certificate of Appreciation to former Commissioner Joanie Priest on behalf of the City Council.

## 7) REPORTS

Sheriff's Department Report: Director Schwarm reported, in Sgt. Moreno's absence, a drop in noise calls, party calls, and party-related fight calls.

Code Compliance Report: Direct Swarm reported in calendar year 2010 only 8 rooming house complaints and 12 noise complaints were received on the city's code hotline. Out of the 8 rooming house complaints only 3 were founded. There were 8 out of the 12 noise complaints founded and a notice of violation issued. At this time the numbers are trending down however the number of complaints tend to increase in the spring. A detailed report including case status and repeat offenders will be provided to the Commission in July.

**8) NEW BUSINESS**

Romero explained a Commission Vice Chair position was not established when the Commission was created and recommended one be established. Commissioners present concurred and asked that staff provide a process and recommendation at the next meeting.

Romero recommended moving the February 14<sup>th</sup> SNRC meeting date to either February 9<sup>th</sup>; 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, or 24<sup>th</sup> to better accommodate Brightwood Drive residents' attendance due to the holiday. Commissioners in attendance concurred and staff will coordinate with all Commissioners to move the meeting date.

**9) COMMISSION COMMENTARY**

Commissioner Martinez announced he will have a table at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> CSUSM Report to the Community and invited Commissioners to join him.

**10) ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting ended at 7:01 p.m.



# Report

## STUDENT AND NEIGHBORHOOD RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
1 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE  
SAN MARCOS, CA 92069  
(760) 744-1050  
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**MEETING DATE:** February 17, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Brightwood Drive

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### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends denying request to install a timed lock on the gate at the end of the Brightwood Drive cul-de-sac.

### **Background**

In 2008, the San Marcos Unified School District cut school bussing for kindergarten through eighth graders for financial reasons. This action created traffic problems around all 11 elementary and 3 middle schools in San Marcos. Since the school district is a sovereign governmental entity, it did not have to consult the City regarding its decision.

Since the bussing has stopped, city staff has been working with some of the Brightwood Drive residents on the issue of their cul-de-sac being used as a pick-up and drop-off location by school parents. This issue has been to the Traffic and Safety Commission twice and to this Commission in 2009. Personnel from the Sheriff's department have been to the neighborhood to issue warnings or tickets. According to the residents working on this issue, they have also spoken to the elementary and middle school principals about this issue.

In November 2010, a group of residents met with city staff, including the city manager, to discuss the issues on Brightwood Drive. After listening to the residents, it was agreed that the City would take a closer look at the use of the cul-de-sac as a school pick-up and drop-off location. The proposed remedy to be considered by the City was to time lock the gate that leads to the trail that leads directly to both schools.

After some internal discussion, it was decided that the Student and Neighborhood Relations Commission would consider this issue due to the Commission's focus on airing neighborhood issues.

### **Discussion**

At the November 2010 meeting, residents described 50-plus cars parked in the cul-de-sac, blocking residents' drive-ways and double parking. To verify these allegations, an independent survey was conducted by engineering staff on six (6) separate days during the months of December and January to measure the drop-off and pick-up activity on Brightwood Drive.

Staff analyzed the data collected during their surveys and came to the conclusion that both car and pedestrian traffic was low during the morning drop-off period. However, in the afternoon both pedestrian and vehicle traffic increased on Brightwood. On average, approximately 10 cars were parked inside the cul-de-sac on Brightwood prior to the afternoon dismissal. Shortly after the dismissal bell, a number of cars were observed driving to the cul-de-sac or parking on Brightwood. The surveys indicate that at any given time the number of cars is between 20 and 35 (when counting the previously parked cars). On two occasions, motorists were observed double parking inside the cul-de-sac as they waited for their children to arrive. At no time was blocking of residential drive-ways observed.

In contrast, the number of pedestrians observed using the trail and walking to their home and not to a car was substantial. During the afternoon surveys the lowest pedestrian activity was 36 people to a high of 95 people walking. Based on these the numbers from the survey, the majority of trail traffic using Brightwood Drive is pedestrian.

The neighbors also expressed concern about the excessive speeding on Brightwood by drivers using the cul-de-sac. A speed survey was conducted on Brightwood using the accepted methodology of setting speed per California law. The speed in residential neighborhoods is set at 25 miles per hour. During the speed survey the average speed was 20 miles per hour; median speed was 19 miles per hour and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 23 miles per hour. One car was observed going 33 miles per hour. Based on the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, the large majority of cars were going the legal speed limit on Brightwood Drive.

The number of vehicles and vehicle speeds documented by city staff is also echoed by observations from the Sheriff's department. These observations were made by Sheriff's personnel in uniform and driving a marked vehicle as well as those in plain clothes driving an unmarked car.

Attached to this report are the survey findings and the engineer's observations and conclusions. In addition, there are recent e-mails from Lt. Cea of the Sheriff's department discussing the safety concerns from a law enforcement perspective.

The residents also raised a concern about fire safety. They are concerned that should a medical or fire emergency occur during pick-up and drop-off times, fire and ambulance vehicles would not be able to get through the street because of the vehicles parked and double parked on the street and in the cul-de-sac. Both the fire chief and the fire marshal visited the location and determined that there are no safety issues.

#### *Alternate location*

During the November 2010 meeting with the residents, it was suggested that residents use an alternate location should the timed lock gate proposal be approved. This alternate location is the main entrance to the trail head on Questhaven Road and Baylor Drive. As discussed in the attached engineer's memo, this location is not conducive to a pick-up and drop-off location for children. Baylor Street is a very narrow street and would not accommodate any temporary parking. Questhaven Road has a large volume of cars traveling with a signed speed limit of 35 miles per hour. The road width from Brightwood Drive to Baylor is 36 feet curb to curb and is not wide enough to accommodate on street parking.

*Residents' Proposal*

The residents' proposal to discourage parents from using Brightwood Drive as a pick-up and drop off location is to time lock the gate that leads to the trail that connects to both school sites. The proposed hours to lock the gate would be Monday through Friday during the school year from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Upon review of the data collected on Brightwood Drive along with input from the Sheriff's and Fire departments, staff cannot support the request to time lock the gate. The evidence that collected supports the intended purpose of the inter-connecting trail system, which is to provide a walkable community. Staff has not been able to replicate the allegations as explained by the residents that brought this issue forward. Therefore, staff recommends the Commission deny the Brightwood neighbors' request to time lock the trail head gate.

**Options**

The Commission has several options to consider:

- A. Deny the request to time lock the gate on the Brightwood cul-de-sac.
- B. Recommend to the City Council the request to time lock the gate on the Brightwood cul-de-sac.
- C. Request additional information from staff and bring this issue back for further discussion.

**Action**

Staff recommends a motion to deny the request to time lock the gate at the Brightwood Drive cul-de-sac.

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**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Brightwood Drive engineering survey results
  - Photos of Brightwood
  - Location Map
  - Speed Survey results
- 2) E-mails from Lt. Cea, Sheriff's department
- 3) Memo from Fire Marshal Ernau
- 4) Letter to area residents
- 5) E-mail comments received on this issue

Prepared by:



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Lydia Romero, Deputy City Manager

RECOMMENDATION -

# CITY OF SAN MARCOS

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mike Edwards, City Engineer

**FROM:** Mike Rafael, Associate Civil Engineer (Traffic)

**DATE:** January 20, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Brightwood Drive – Traffic Conditions during San Elijo Elementary School Start and Dismissal Times

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Mike,

I have completed my survey of the existing traffic conditions along Brightwood Drive during San Elijo's Elementary School start and dismissal times. The surveys were conducted during the first week of December 2010 and January 2011. Based on the surveys, vehicular and pedestrian traffic during the morning start period were significantly low. An average of at least 4 cars was observed to be parked inside the cul-de-sac on Brightwood Drive. However, prior to the afternoon dismissal bell, there appears to be an average of approximately 10 vehicles parked inside the cul-de-sac and several other cars parked along Brightwood Drive. Pedestrians (majority are parents from the surrounding neighborhood) were also observed walking on Brightwood Drive and accessing the trail to pickup their children at the elementary school. Soon after the dismissal bell rings, a number of vehicles were observed to be arriving at the end of the cul-de-sac between 3:10 and 3:30 PM. If parking spaces were unavailable within the cul-de-sac, the majority of drivers would turn around in an attempt to find adequate space to park on Brightwood Drive. At least two motorists were seen to be double-parked temporarily inside the cul-de-sac, while seated in their vehicles, until their children had arrived and boarded onto their vehicles. No motorists were observed blocking resident driveways while double-parked in the cul-de-sac. Excessive speeding was not a concern on Brightwood Drive as the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was measured at 23 mph for vehicles traveling towards the end of the cul-de-sac. Brightwood Drive is a local residential street with a 25 MPH speed limit per the California Vehicle Code. **It appears that the traffic conditions follow an orderly movement of traffic which last approximately 15-20 minutes after the school dismissal bell.** Parents seem to acknowledge the homeowner's request of not blocking resident driveways inside the cul-de-sac. Periodic closure of the access trail gate would inconvenience nearby residents desiring to use the public trail. Please see the attached photos and table of surveyed vehicles and pedestrians for your reference.

An alternate location where parents can access the trail to pick-up/drop-off their children to the San Elijo Elementary School is at the intersection of Baylor Drive and Questhaven Road. This location appears to be the main entrance to the existing trail. Baylor Drive is a public street west of Questhaven Road to the existing private gate and is 34 feet curb to curb. The roadway width is relatively narrow to allow through-traffic if vehicles are to be parked on both sides. This may be a problem for existing homeowners accessing their residence inside the gated community. On-street parking will need to be restricted on Baylor Drive if this alternate location is considered. Parking is restricted in both directions on Questhaven Road from San Elijo Road to Brightwood Drive. However, parking is not restricted on Questhaven Road from Brightwood Drive to Baylor Drive (directly in front of the existing neighborhood park and access trail). The street width in this segment of Questhaven Road is 36 feet curb to curb and is not recommended for on-street parking due to the

narrow roadway width and volume of cars traveling on this street. Parents likely to use this trail access will have to park their vehicles on Hollowbrook Drive (east of Questhaven Road) and cross Questhaven Road at the all-way-stop intersection on Questhaven Road and Brightwood Drive. Please let me know if you need any other additional information. Thanks.

Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
11/29/2010	3:00-3:10 PM	2		
	3:10-3:20 PM	8	2	5
	3:20-3:30 PM	26	2	2

**8 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to afternoon bell**

Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
12/6/2010	3:00-3:10 PM	4		1
	3:10-3:20 PM	4	3	3
	3:20-3:30 PM	37	3	12

**10 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to afternoon bell**

Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
12/7/2010	3:00-3:10 PM	2		2
	3:10-3:20 PM	6	2	6
	3:20-3:30 PM	40	4	7

**8 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to afternoon bell**

Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
12/8/2010	8:30-8:45 AM	5	1	2
	8:45-9:00 AM	5		1

**5 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to morning start bell**

Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
1/4/2011	830-835	7	2	3
1/4/2011	835-840	13	2	5
1/4/2011	840-845	1		
1/4/2011	845-850	7		

**4 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to MORNING bell (8:45)**

Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
1/4/2011	250-300	9		3
1/4/2011	300-310	5		4
1/4/2011	310-320	22	4	9
1/4/2011	320-330	36	4	4
1/4/2011	330-340	14		

**12 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to AFTERNOON bell (3:10)**

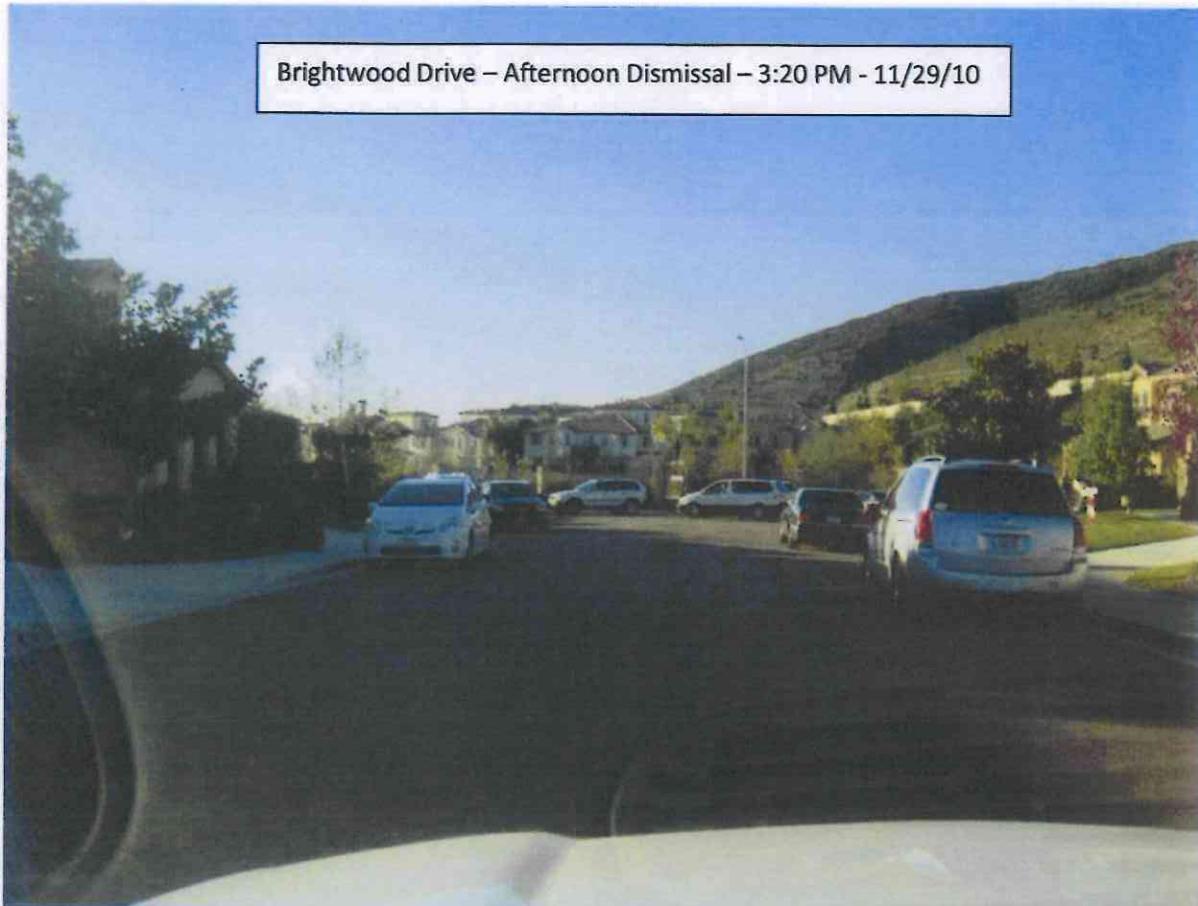
Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
1/5/2011	830-835	18	1	3
1/5/2011	835-840	9		
1/5/2011	840-845	5		
1/5/2011	845-850	1		

**2 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to MORNING bell (8:45)**

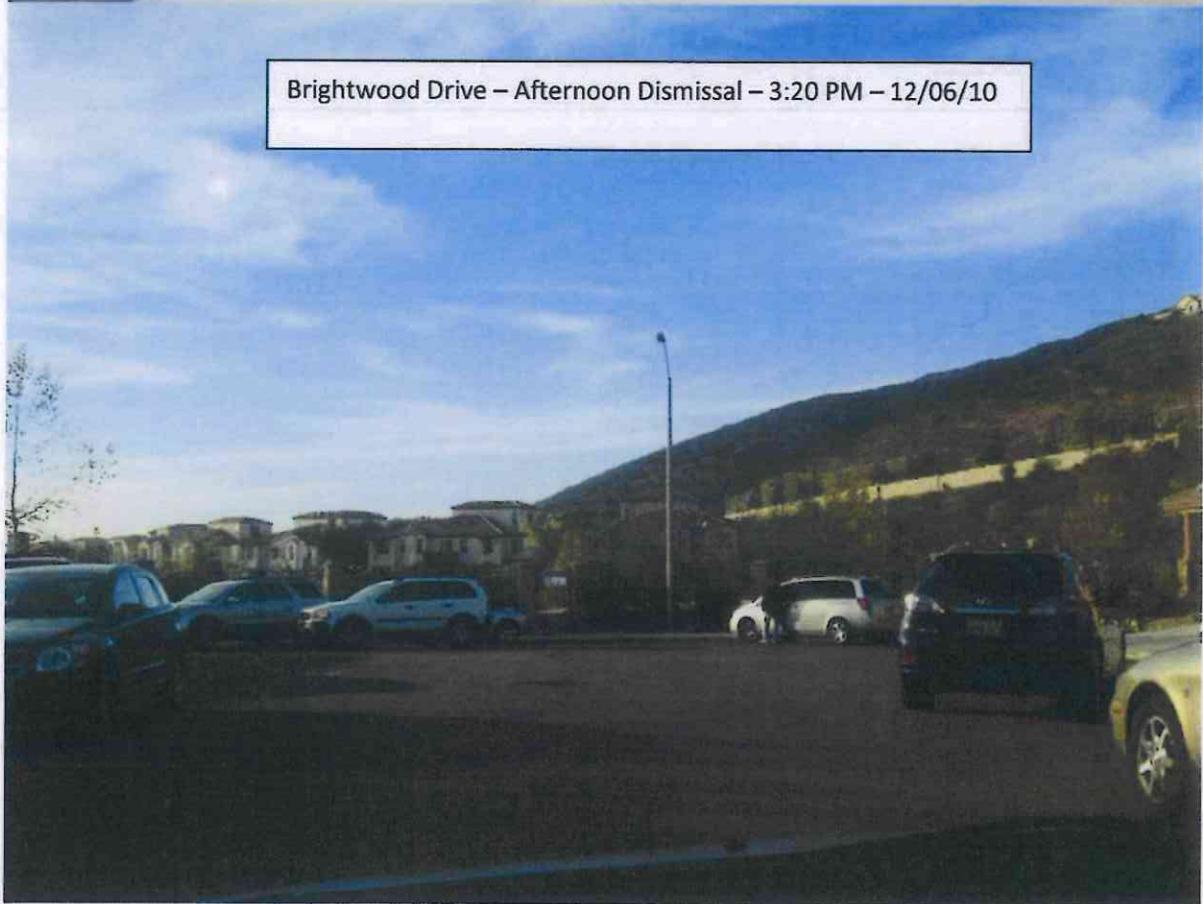
Date	Time	Peds	Bicyclists	Vehicles (Arriving)
1/5/2011	150-200	8	1	3
1/5/2011	200-210	5		4
1/5/2011	210-220	20	2	10
1/5/2011	220-230	50	3	
1/5/2011	230-240	12	3	

**12 vehicles parked in cul-de-sac prior to AFTERNOON bell (2:10)**

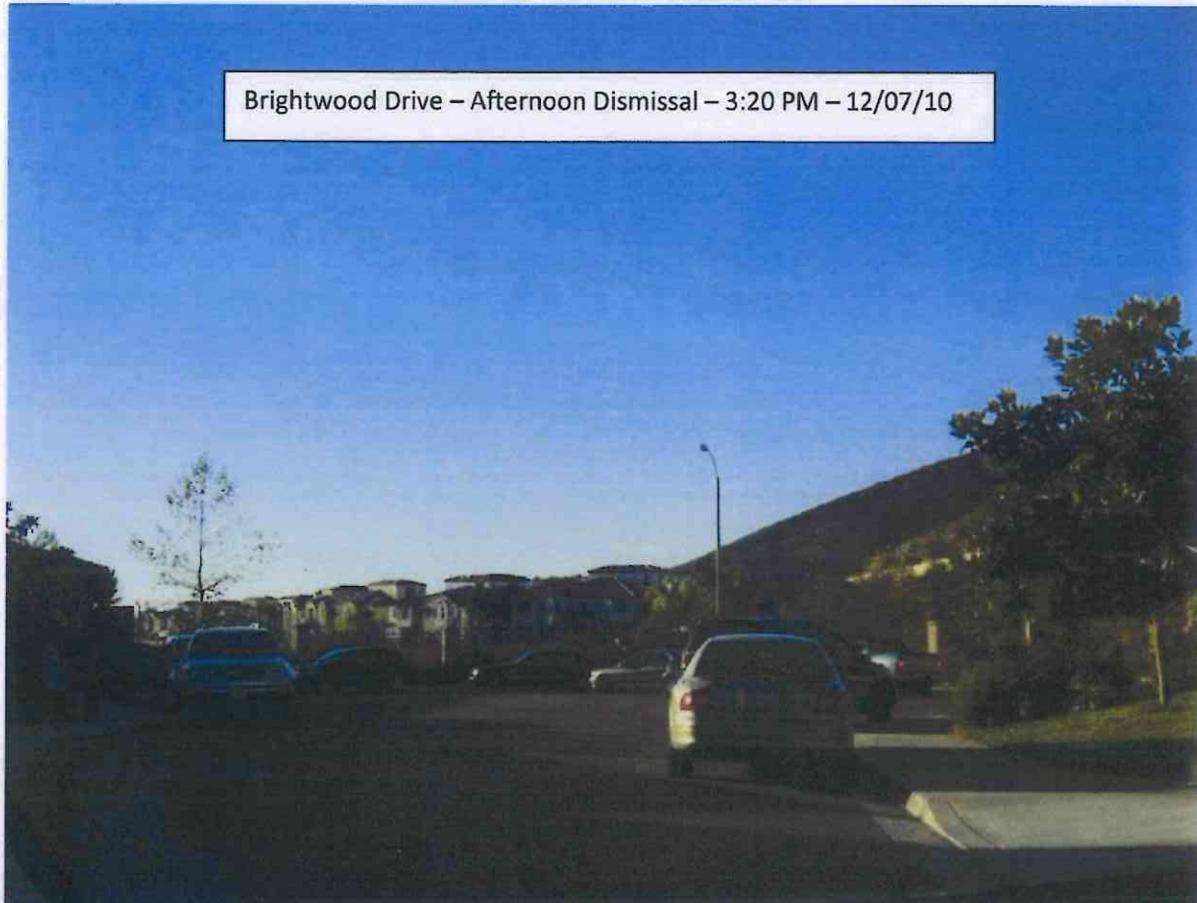
Brightwood Drive – Afternoon Dismissal – 3:20 PM - 11/29/10



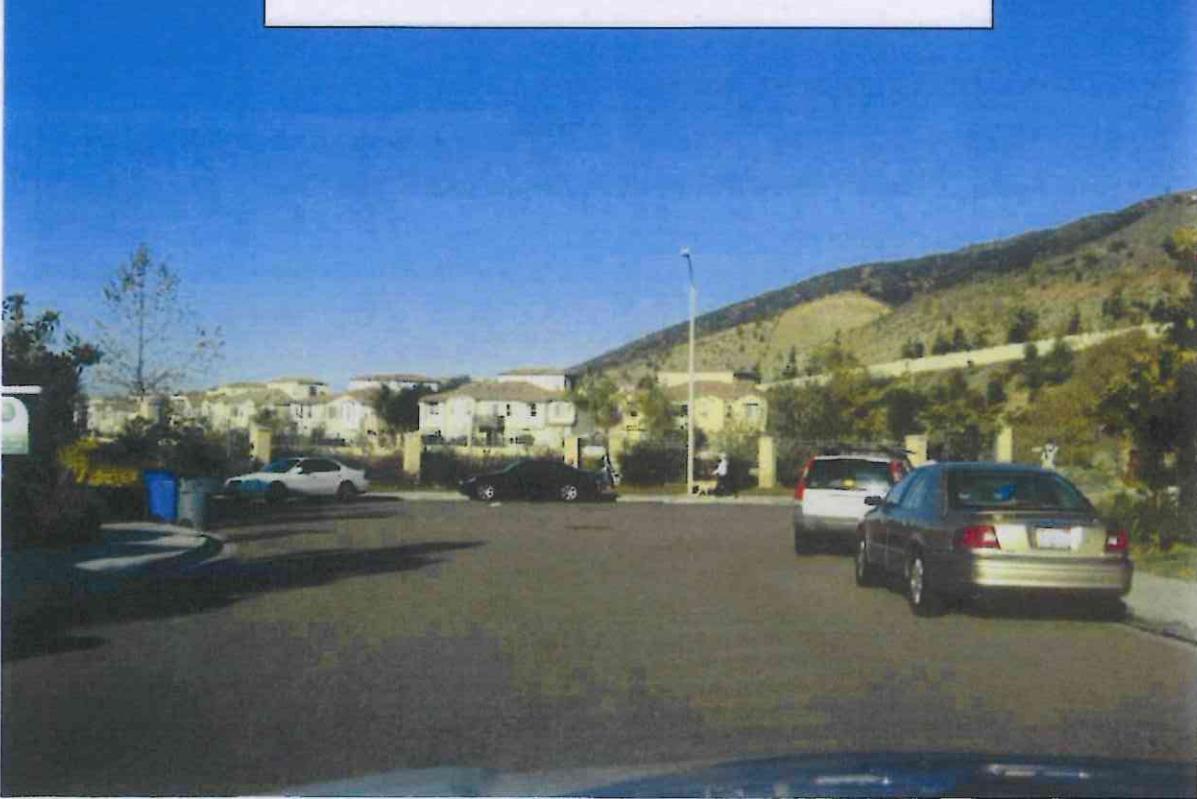
Brightwood Drive – Afternoon Dismissal – 3:20 PM – 12/06/10



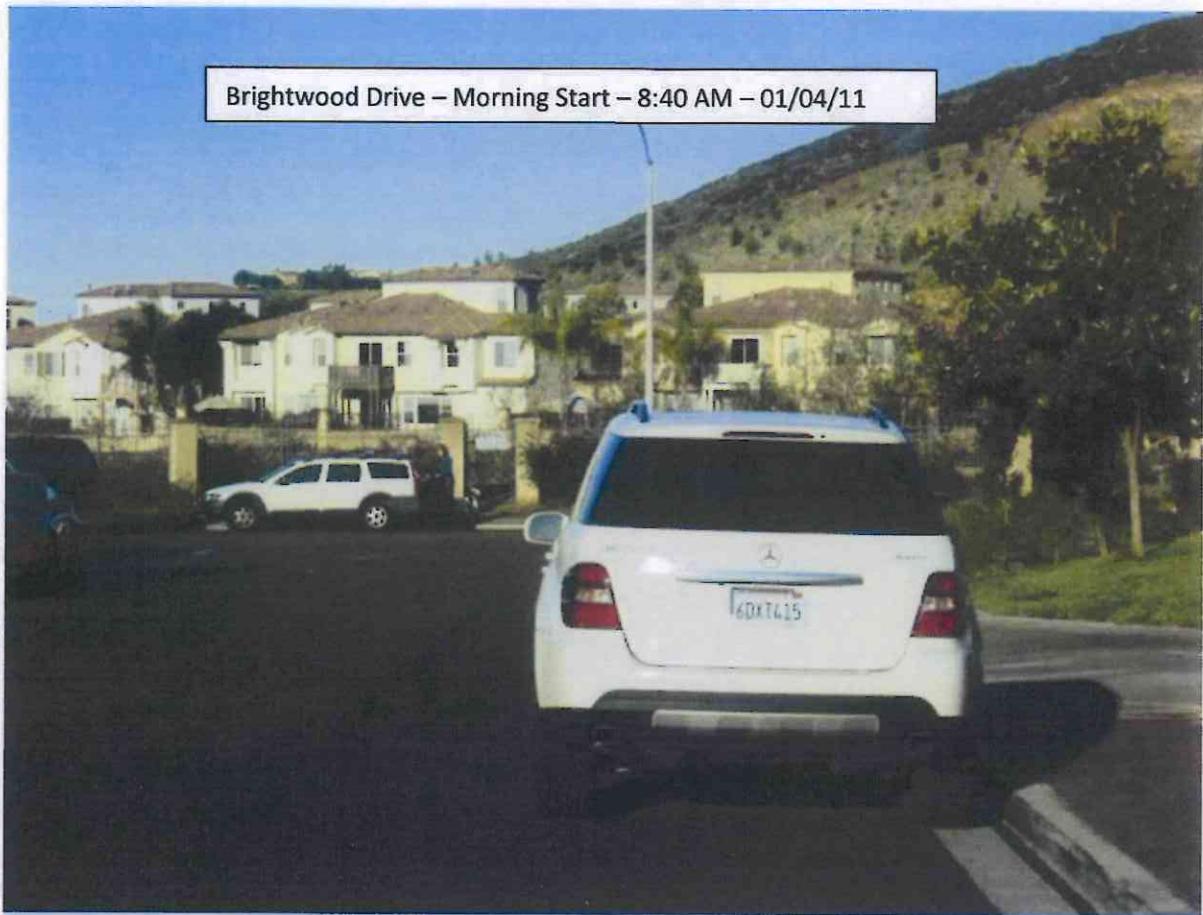
Brightwood Drive – Afternoon Dismissal – 3:20 PM – 12/07/10



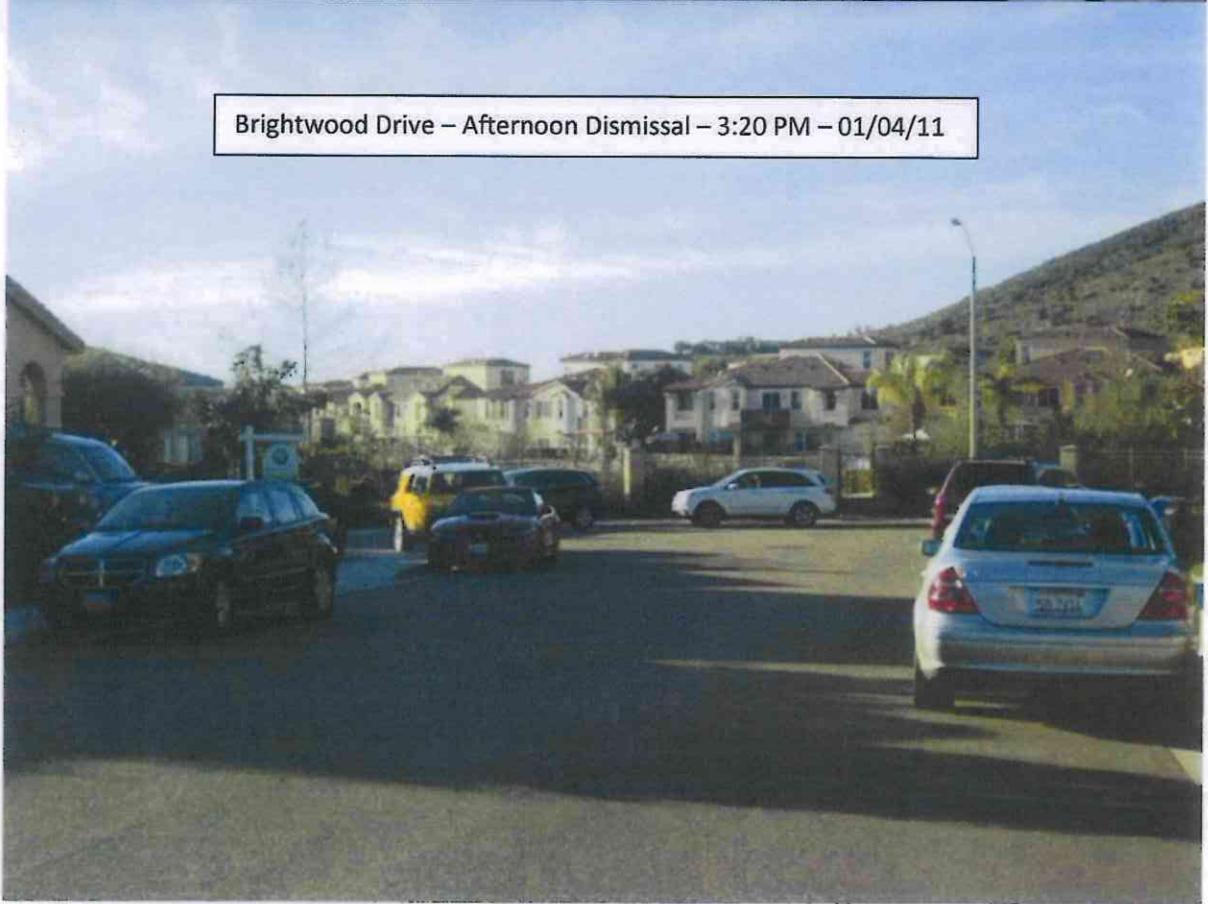
Brightwood Drive – Morning Start – 8:40 AM – 12/09/10



Brightwood Drive – Morning Start – 8:40 AM – 01/04/11



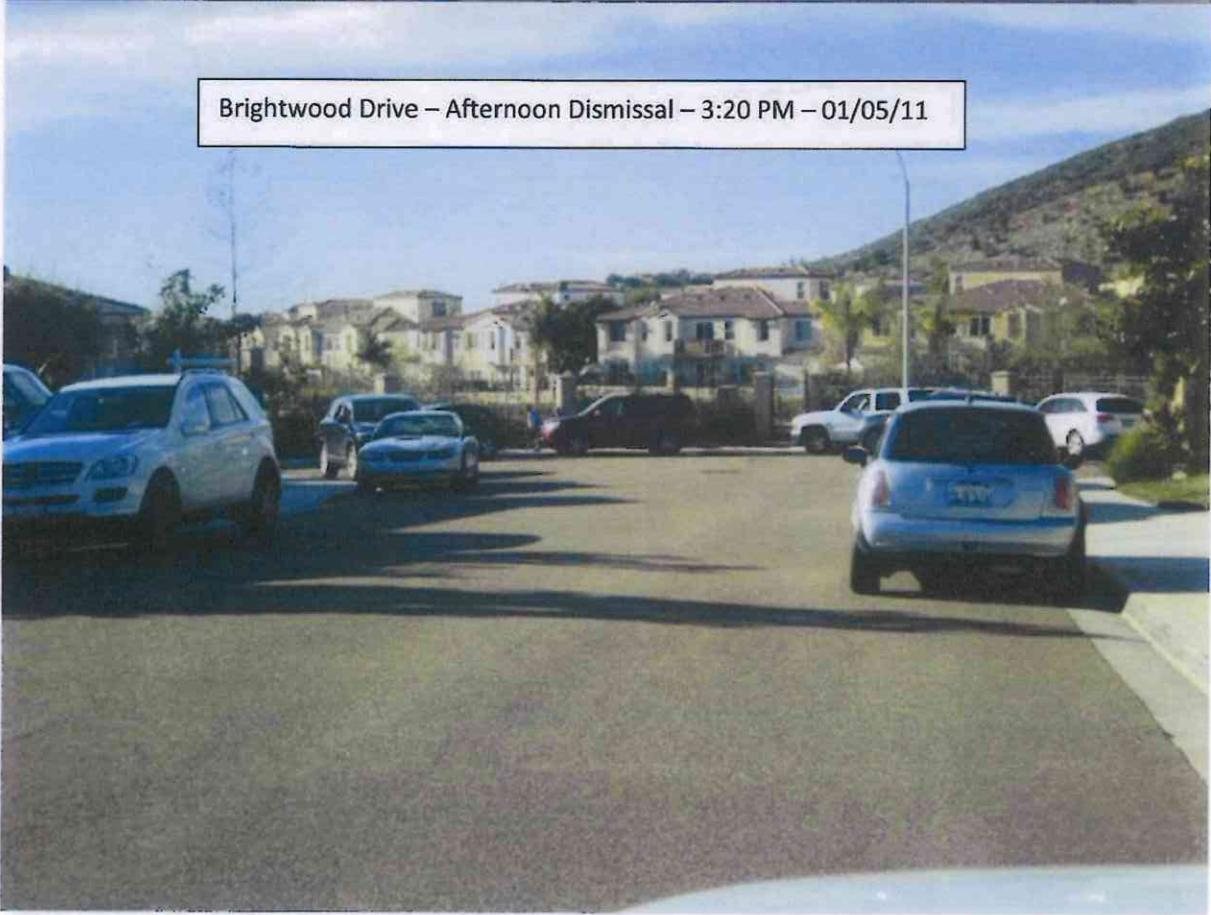
Brightwood Drive – Afternoon Dismissal – 3:20 PM – 01/04/11



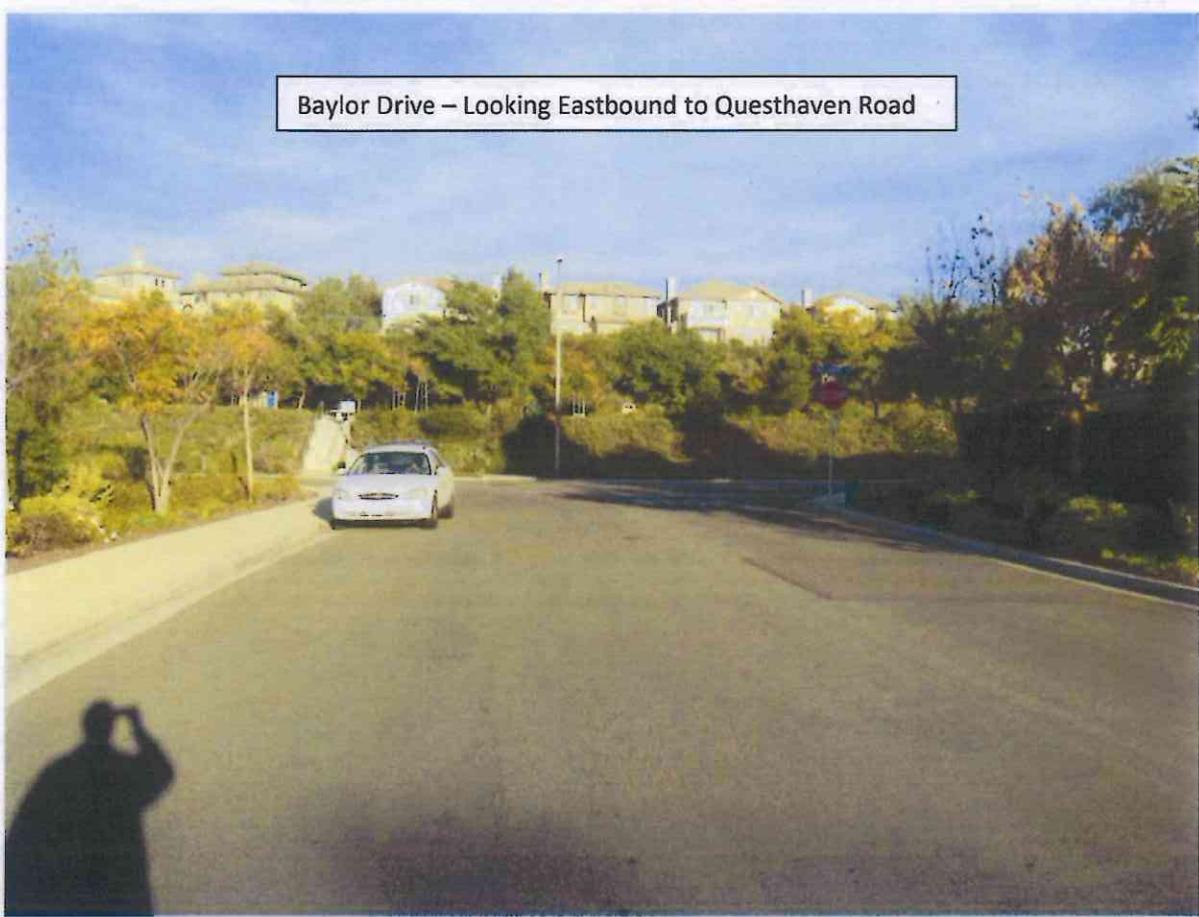
Brightwood Drive – Morning Start – 8:40 AM – 01/05/11



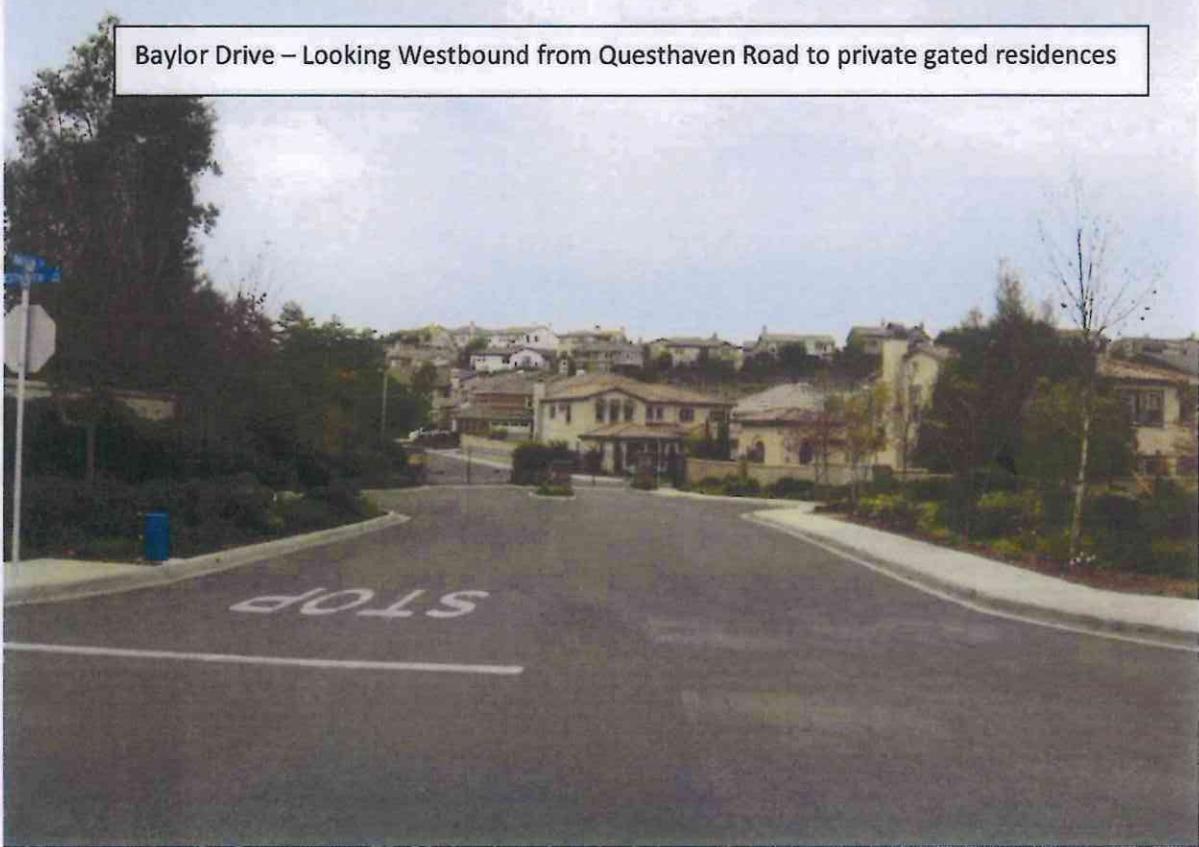
Brightwood Drive – Afternoon Dismissal – 3:20 PM – 01/05/11



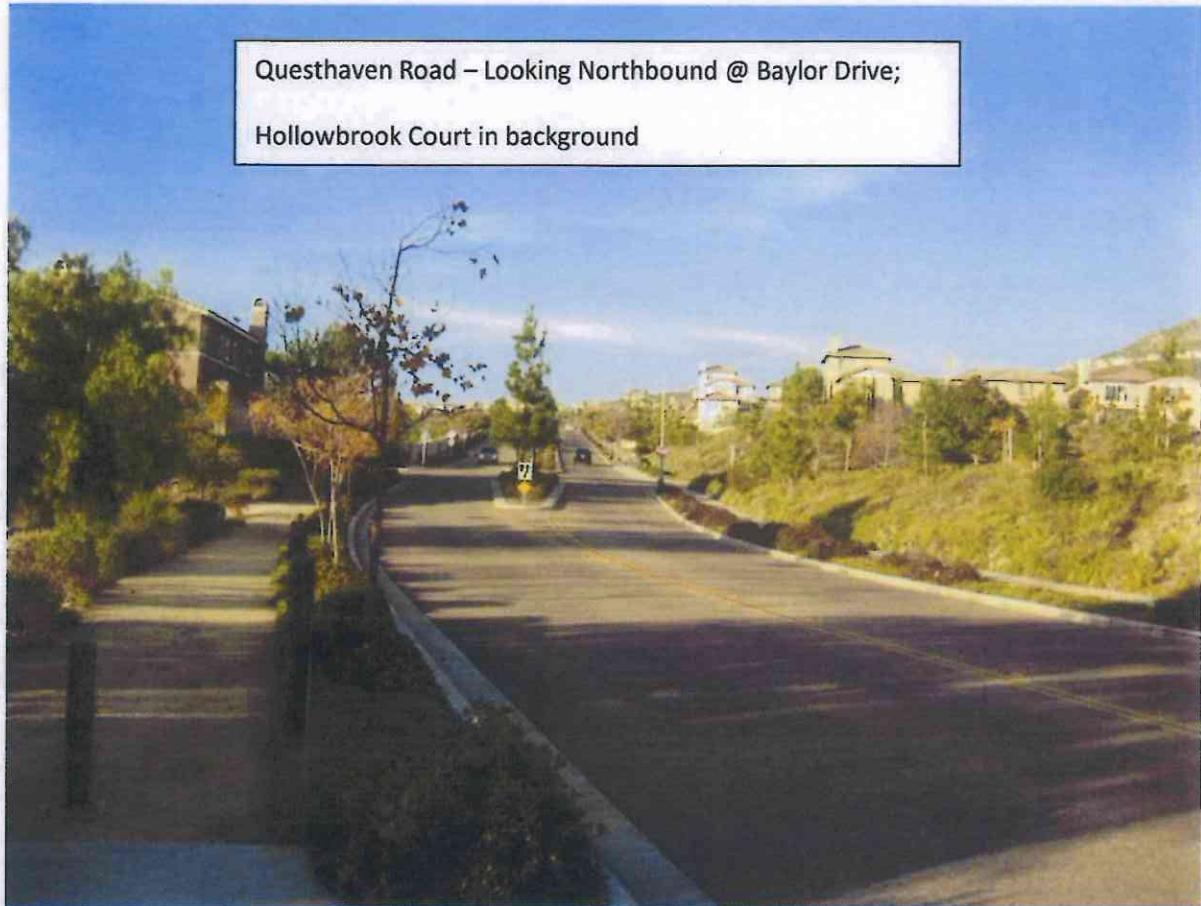
Baylor Drive – Looking Eastbound to Questhaven Road



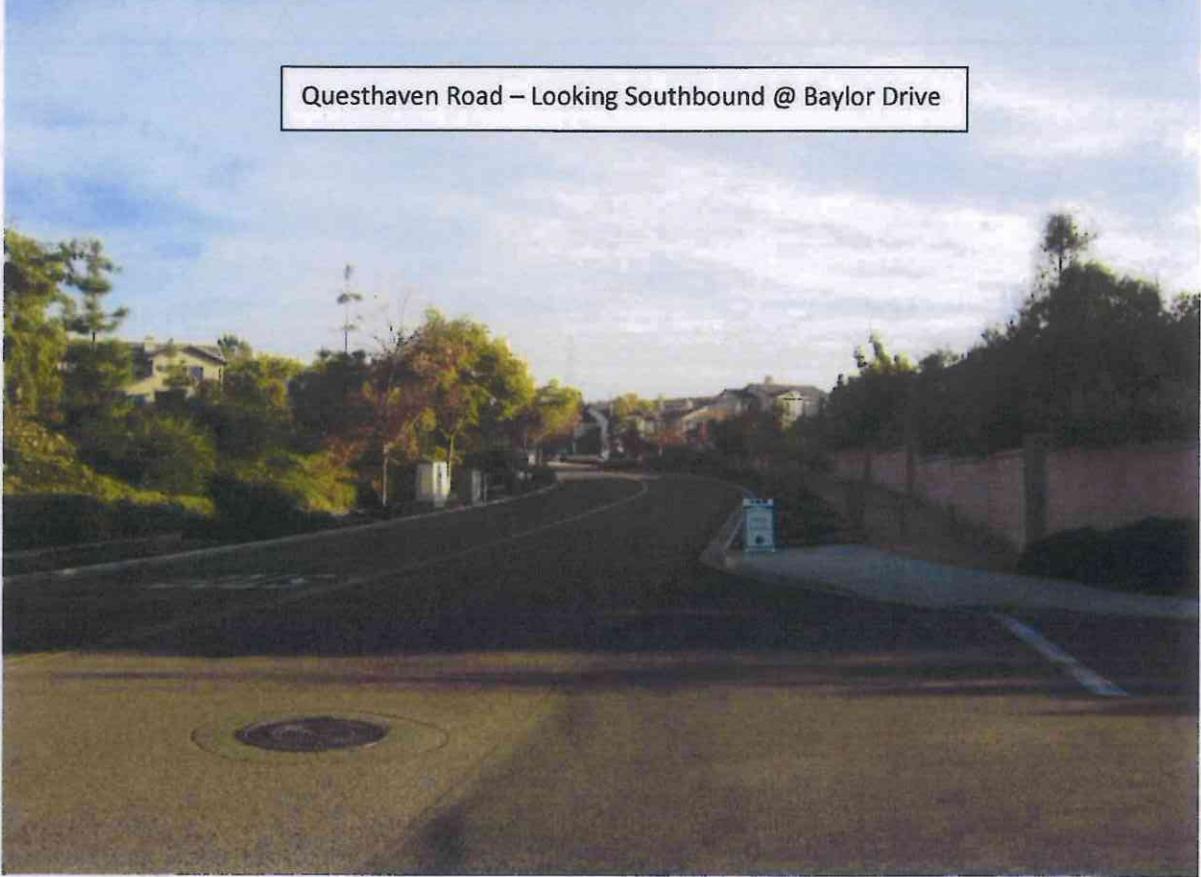
Baylor Drive – Looking Westbound from Questhaven Road to private gated residences



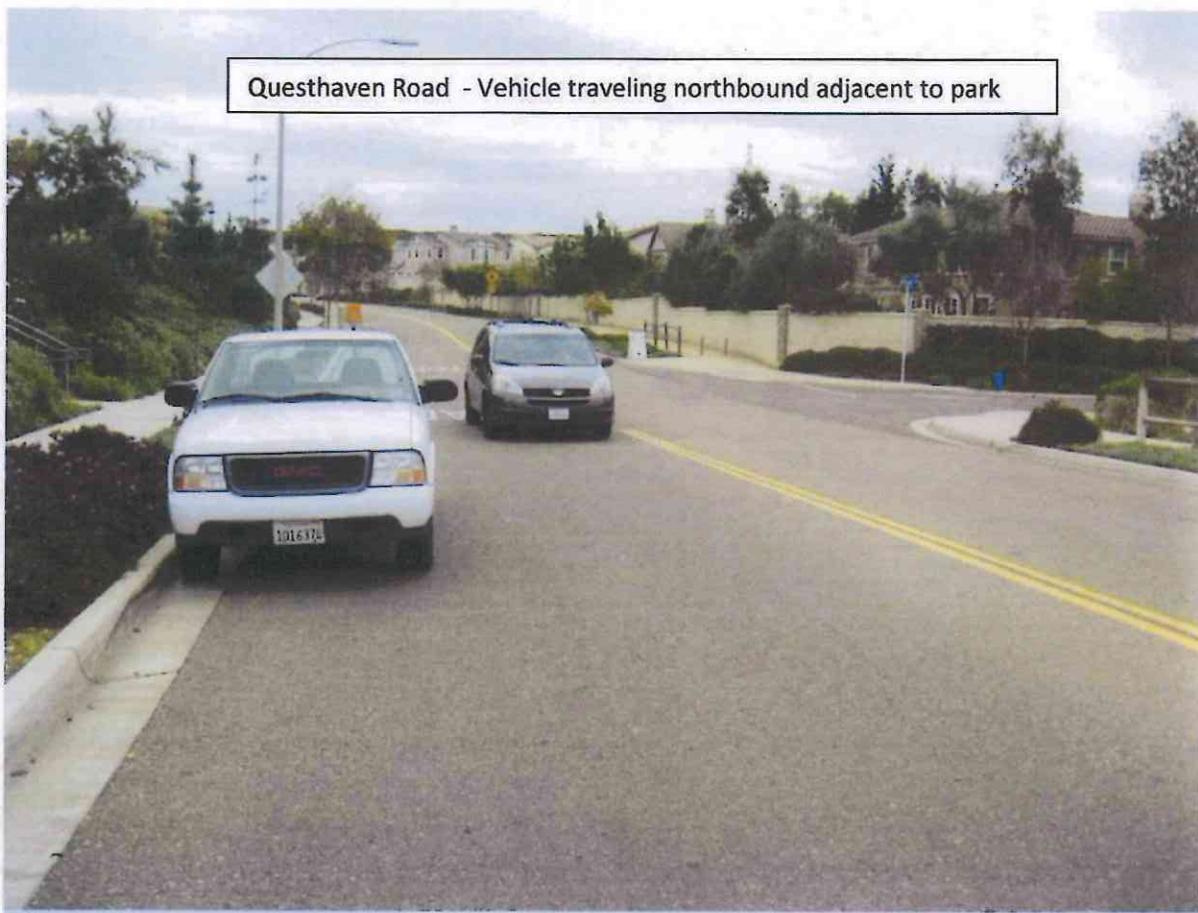
Questhaven Road – Looking Northbound @ Baylor Drive;  
Hollowbrook Court in background



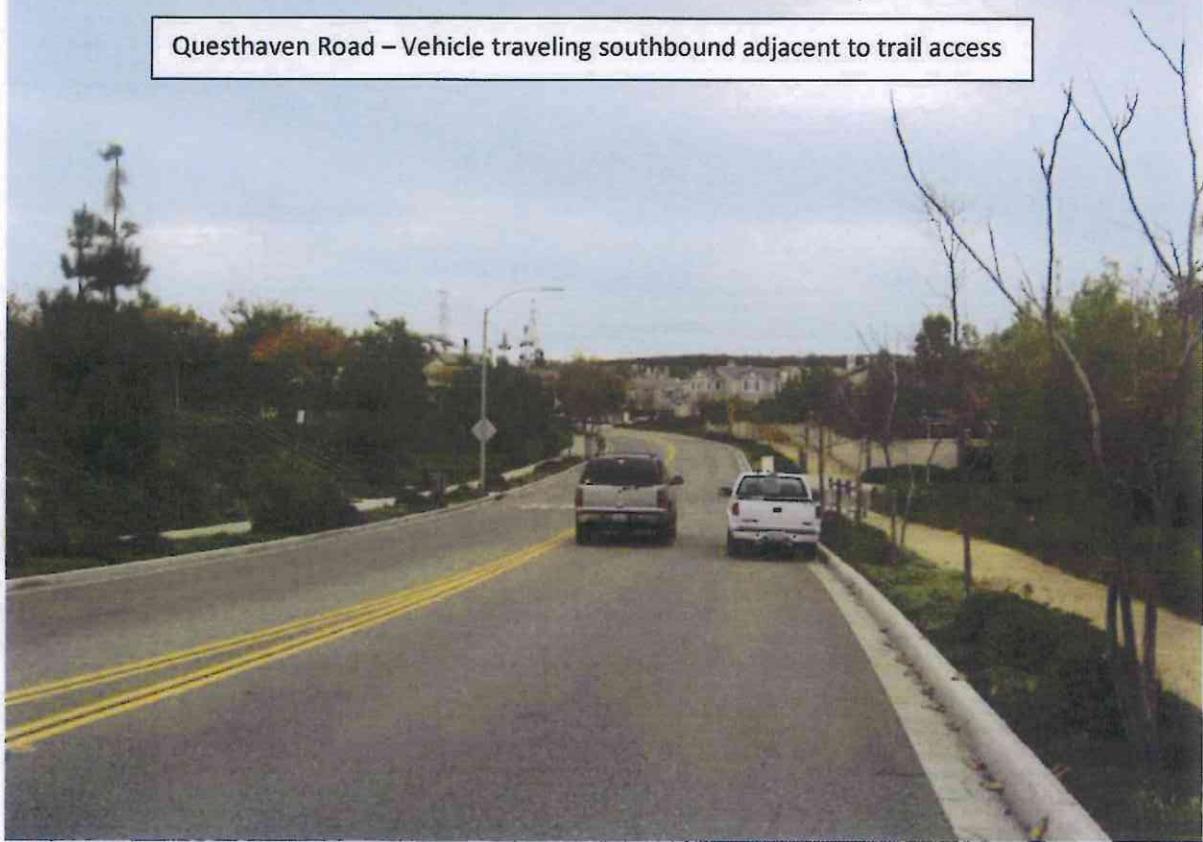
Questhaven Road – Looking Southbound @ Baylor Drive



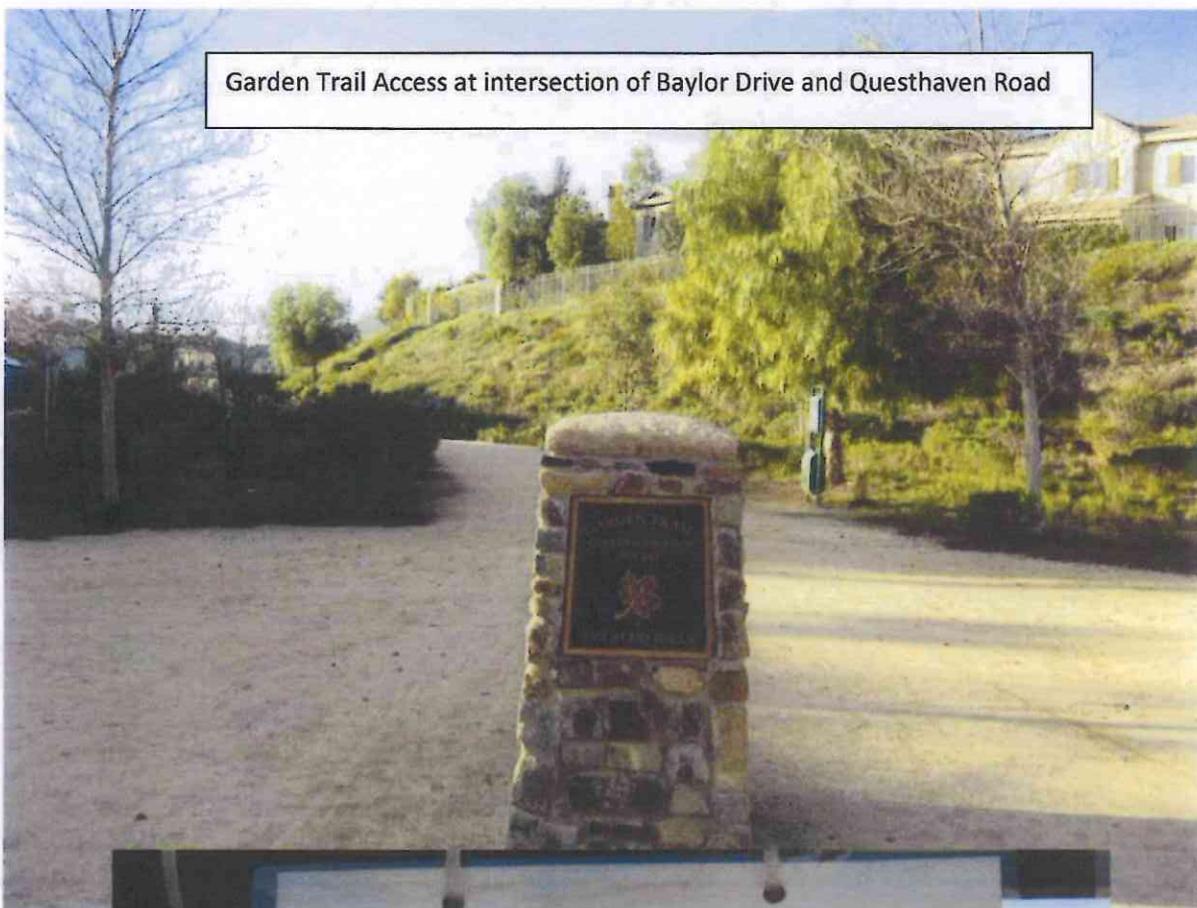
Questhaven Road - Vehicle traveling northbound adjacent to park



Questhaven Road – Vehicle traveling southbound adjacent to trail access



Garden Trail Access at intersection of Baylor Drive and Questhaven Road



**ATTENTION PARENTS**

We ALL enjoy living in San Elijo Hills and have it be a "Walking Community." Therefore we ALL enjoy having Brightwood Drive be a "Walking Street" and love the camaraderie of the kids and parents as we go to and from school each day.

It is the expressed wish of the Crest View homeowners that Brightwood Drive not be used as the schools overflow parking lot and school loading zone.

We are concerned for the safety of our kids and yours due to the high volume of cars driven on Brightwood Drive, excessive speeding, and illegal double-parking by blocking driveways and erratic traffic flows.

As a solution, we request for you to park at the Questhaven park area and use Brightwood Drive or alternatively use the trail between Savern/Azure and Crest View to walk to school.

As your friends and neighbors, we ask you to honor our request. This is an opportunity to model for our children the SEES "Eagle Way -by showing respect and courtesy for others."

We truly thank you for hearing our request and honoring us as your neighbors. We want to also thank those neighbors who are already walking, parking at the park or using the other trail between Savern/Azure and Crest View. It really means a lot to us and the safety of all children.

Thank You, The Crest View Homeowners

Resident Flyer posted on trail gate requesting public to take alternative route

**VEHICLE SPOT SPEED STUDY**

SPEED RANGES	NUMBER OF VEHICLES	PERCENT OF TOTAL	PERCENT ACCUMULATION
5	0	0.0%	0.0%
6	0	0.0%	0.0%
7	0	0.0%	0.0%
8	0	0.0%	0.0%
9	0	0.0%	0.0%
10	0	0.0%	0.0%
11	0	0.0%	0.0%
12	0	0.0%	0.0%
13	1	4.2%	4.2%
14	0	0.0%	4.2%
15	1	4.2%	8.3%
16	3	12.5%	20.8%
17	2	8.3%	29.2%
18	3	12.5%	41.7%
19	1	4.2%	45.8%
20	3	12.5%	58.3%
21	2	8.3%	66.7%
22	2	8.3%	75.0%
23	2	8.3%	83.3%
24	2	8.3%	91.7%
POSTED SPEED <b>25</b>	0	0.0%	91.7%
25	1	4.2%	95.8%
27	0	0.0%	95.8%
28	0	0.0%	95.8%
29	0	0.0%	95.8%
30	0	0.0%	95.8%
31	0	0.0%	95.8%
32	0	0.0%	95.8%
33	1	4.2%	100.0%
34	0	0.0%	100.0%
35	0	0.0%	100.0%
36	0	0.0%	100.0%
37	0	0.0%	100.0%
38	0	0.0%	100.0%
39	0	0.0%	100.0%
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48	0	0.0%	100.0%
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55	0	0.0%	100.0%
56	0	0.0%	100.0%
57	0	0.0%	100.0%
58	0	0.0%	100.0%
59	0	0.0%	100.0%
60	0	0.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL VEHICLES:</b>	<b>24</b>		

RECORDER: Erick S

LOCATION:

Brightwood Drive (Near Cut de Sac)

APPROACH: WB/EB

SURFACE: DRY

WEATHER: Sunny/ Clear

DATE: 1/10/11

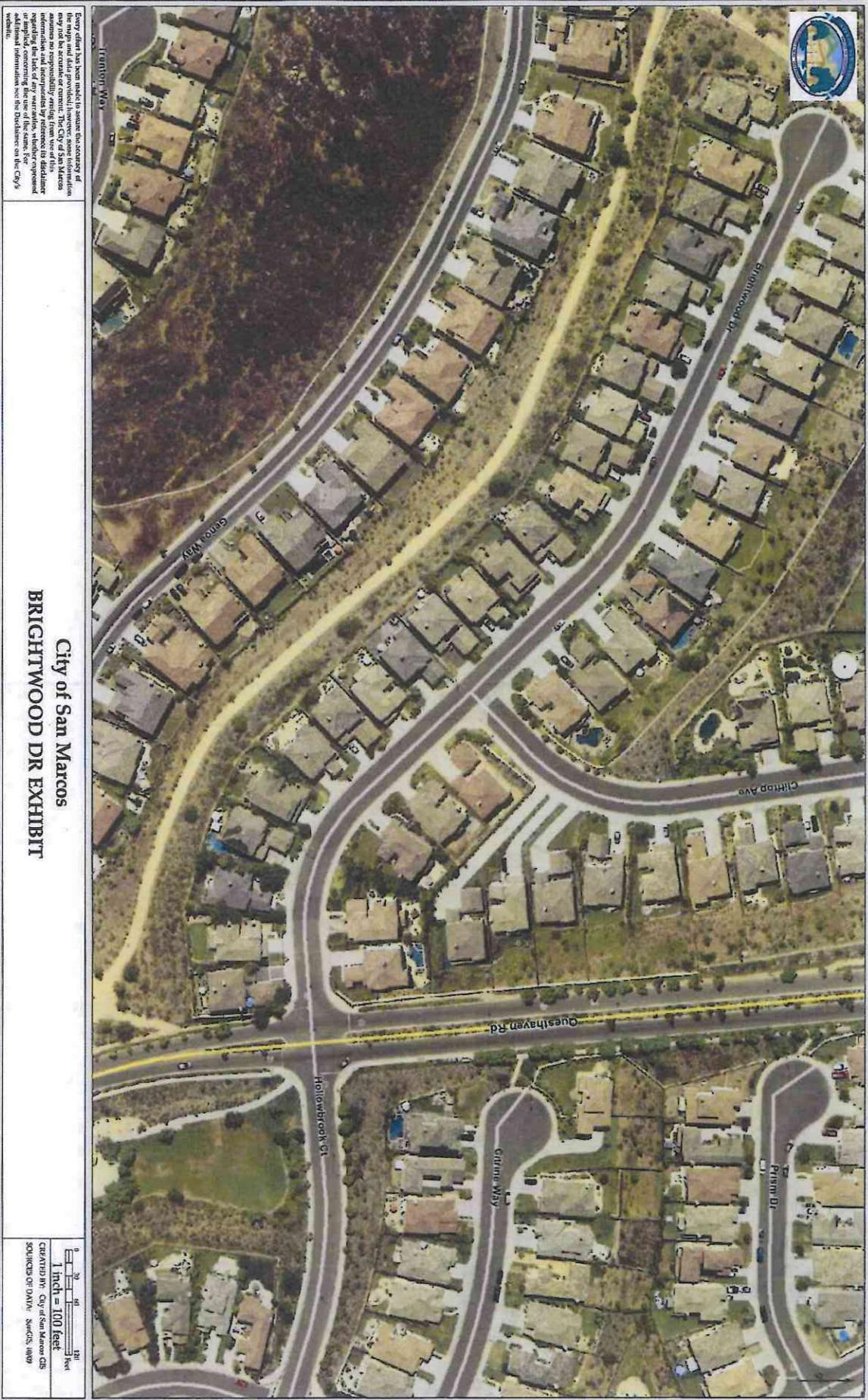
TIME: 2:50-3:40

**SURVEY STATISTICS**

POSTED SPEED:	<u>25</u> MPH
AVERAGE SPEED:	<u>20</u> MPH
MEDIAN SPEED: (50th PERCENTILE)	<u>19</u> MPH
MODAL SPEED:	<u>16</u> MPH
85TH PERCENTILE SPEED:	<u>23</u> MPH
10 MPH PACE:	<u>15 - 24</u> MPH
PERCENT IN PACE:	<u>88%</u>
PERCENT ENFORCEABLE:	<u>0%</u>

COMMENTS:

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**From:** Cea, Michael [Michael.Cea@sdsheriff.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 22, 2010 8:32 AM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Cc:** Beyer, Kirby; Cinnamo, Charles  
**Subject:** Brightwood Complaint

Lydia,

Yesterday, at about 2:50 PM, I went to Brightwood Avenue to monitor the situation involving the picking up of students.

Along with a team of SVPs and Motor Deputy Ronnie Hudson, I saw about 15 vehicles stop and pick up students. It was trash day, so the street was lined with the EDCO trash bins. This, along with our presence, could have affected the number of cars that came down to the cul de sac. A number of parents parked further up on Brightwood and walked down. We saw only one parking violation. Deputy Hudson spoke with the driver and educated her as to the proper parking positioning in a cul de sac.

We passed out flyers and spoke with the drivers, who all seemed very cooperative. Additionally, I spoke with two of the complainants, who approached and contacted me. We discussed the situation. I recommended that they contact their HOA to seek some type of legal solution, such as possibly restricting gate access. Also, Deputy Hudson and I assured them that the Sheriff's Department would conduct enforcement details as time and scheduling allowed. I gave them my business card and invited them to call me with any further concerns. We left at about 3:50 PM.

We will continue to monitor this problem.

Mike

## **Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** Cea, Michael [Michael.Cea@sdsheriff.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2010 10:30 AM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Cc:** Beyer, Kirby; Schmitt, Albert; Condrey, Gary  
**Subject:** FW: Brightwood  
**Attachments:** 0336\_001.pdf

Lydia,

Here's the latest from Brightwood. I believe we're at the point where we can reduce this "special project" to a regular street project, which will be in the normal "rotation" for enforcement by the Traffic Unit and monitoring by the Senior Volunteers. Please feel free to have any complainants contact me or Sergeant Cinnamo.

Mike

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**From:** Cinnamo, Charles  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2010 10:25 AM  
**To:** Beyer, Kirby  
**Cc:** Cea, Michael  
**Subject:** Brightwood

Captain,

The attached flyer was found this morning (0820 to 0845 hrs.) by Deputy Morreale on the gate leading from Brightwood Drive to the trail used by the San Elijo Elementary School students to go to and from school.

In addition, Morreale and Hudson conducted some speed enforcement while they were in the area and found the speeding problem to be non-existent. The speeds ranged from 12 mph to a high of 25 mph, all deemed safe speeds given the roadway, pedestrian traffic, and other vehicle traffic at that time.

Chuck

## ATTENTION PARENTS

We ALL enjoy living in San Elijo Hills and have it be a "Walking Community." Therefore we ALL enjoy having Brightwood Drive be a "Walking Street" and love the camaraderie of the kids and parents as we go to and from school each day.

It is the expressed wish of the Crest View homeowners that Brightwood Drive not be used as the schools overflow parking lot and school loading zone.

We are concerned for the safety of our kids and yours due to the high volume of cars driven on Brightwood Drive, excessive speeding, and illegal double-parking by blocking driveways and erratic traffic flows.

As a solution, we request for you to park at the Questhaven park area and use Brightwood Drive or alternatively use the trail between Savern/Azure and Crest View to walk to school.

As your friends and neighbors, we ask you to honor our request. This is an opportunity to model for our children the SEES "Eagle Way -by showing respect and courtesy for others."

We truly thank you for hearing our request and honoring us as your neighbors. We want to also thank those neighbors who are already walking, parking at the park or using the other trail between Savern/Azure and Crest View. It really means a lot to us and the safety of all children.

Thank You, The Crest View Homeowners

## **"DID YOU KNOW"**

- 2 Accidents in the last year. 1 collision and 1 child was hit while riding their bike on Brightwood Drive.
- The Crest View development (Brightwood Drive and Clifftop) were built 2 years prior to the building of the schools. (Crest View -2004, Schools -2006)
- A suspicious man was sited on this street, parked during the pick up time, staring at the children.
- School traffic is generating an average of 50 + cars, that is 200 trips per day on Brightwood Drive.
- Elementary school principal has been on the street to observe the safety of the children during pick up.
- Children are loitering after school due to the parents being late to pick up their child. Property has been vandalized and stolen.
- Brightwood Drive residents do not have the ability for emergency and service vehicles to arrive in a timely manner due to the high volume of cars on the street. (fire truck, ambulance, service trucks) This has occurred twice this school year.
- 2 weeks ago there was a suspected burglary on Brightwood Drive during pick up time. The Police had an extremely difficult time securing the street and keeping the residents safe including children on the Brightwood Drive and trail.
- A parent parked in a resident's driveway expecting for the homeowner to not be home. A family had to ask them to move to be able to pull into their own driveway.
- Calistoga residents use Brightwood Drive as a method to pick up and drop off their children. Calistoga is right next to the school at the bottom of the hill.

## NATIONAL STATISTICS

### According to the "Transportation Research Board"

- 2 children have been killed by cars in school areas since the school year started.
- More than 100 children are killed in a year while walking to and from school
- 25,000 children are injured in a year while walking to and from school

### "Consumer Report Auto Test Track"

- If a car is traveling at 20 MPH it took 23 ft to stop the car.
- If a car is traveling at 30 MPH it took 41 ft to stop the car.
- If a car is traveling at 40 MPH it took 68 ft to stop the car.

### "National Highway Traffic Safety Administration"

- A crash at 30 MPH is 8 times more likely to kill a person than a 20 MPH crash.

*The resident's of Brightwood Drive are not willing to have their child and your child be a statistic.*

## **Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** Cea, Michael [Michael.Cea@sdsheriff.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2010 3:18 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Cc:** Cinnamo, Charles; Kirby Beyer  
**Subject:** Brightwood Drive

Lydia,

Some areas of concern for the Questhaven Drop Off solution:

- Questhaven Rd. between San Elijo Rd and Baylor Drive is posted "No Parking" ; potential legal issues.
- The roadway is narrow enough to be "not conducive" to traffic flowing with vehicles stopped along the west curb line.
- While crossing at the intersections of Brightwood/Hollowbrook and Baylor Drive would be encouraged, there would be the danger of crossing mid-block across the raised median.

These are issues to be considered and monitored.

Mike

# CITY OF SAN MARCOS

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Lydia Romero, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** Matthew Ernau, Fire Marshal

**DATE:** January 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Brightwood Drive Parking Restrictions

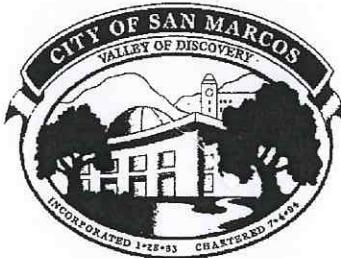
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Chief Newman and I went out and looked at Brightwood Drive on December 14, 2010. When we got back to the office we ran into City Manager Malone and talk to him about the community's concerns on Brightwood Drive. My findings were Brightwood Drive was designed with no parking restrictions. After talking to Michael Rafael from engineering and visiting the site with Chief Newman we do not see any safety issues.

Attachment #4

1 Civic Center Drive  
San Marcos, CA 92069-2918



Telephone  
(760) 744-1050

February 9, 2011

Dear San Marcos Resident:

The San Marcos Student and Neighborhood Relations Commission will hear a request from residents on Brightwood Drive to time-lock the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac. The request will be heard on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 6 pm. The public is invited to attend.

The proposed days and times for locking the gate are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the school year.

Residents have made this request due to the volume of school parents using the cul-de-sac as a pick-up and drop off location.

You may submit written comments, to [lromero@san-marcos.net](mailto:lromero@san-marcos.net) or via US Mail to me at the address listed above.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, please contact me either by phone at (760) 744-1050, ext. 3114 or by email, previously listed.

Thank you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lydia Romero".

Lydia Romero  
Deputy City Manager  
Commission staff

**E-MAIL COMMENTS RECEIVED**

## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** Alan & Adrienne Watters (attywags@att.net)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 4:40 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Cc:** [Adrienne.Watters@wattersmanagement.com](mailto:Adrienne.Watters@wattersmanagement.com)  
**Subject:** Response to Brightwood Drive Hearing  
**Attachments:** City Notice\_received021011 001.bmp

Dear Lydia,

I am responding regarding the notice dated February 9, 2011 pertaining to a request from residents of Brightwood Drive to have a community gate time-locked during the periods that students walk to and from school. I have attached the notice for reference.

It's to my understanding that the reason for the hearing, communicated to the city by the residents of Brightwood Drive, is because many parents use the cul-de-sac as a drop-off and pick-up point for their children and the residents are not happy with the increased volume of traffic on their street during those hours; therefore, posing a safety issue for the children. I can appreciate their concern for the safety of our children and I'm certain there is an underlying personal interest involved as well; however, locking the gate is not the answer and if I am correct, doing this would violate certain city codes pertaining to fire personnel access and public right-of-way access to the city's master planned trail system. This is a traffic issue and should be addressed accordingly by the city.

I live in a different neighborhood in San Elijo Hills and walk my 1<sup>st</sup> grader to school every morning (from our home) using the Brightwood route to the trail because it is the safest and most direct route to school from our home. My 3 year son also comes along in a stroller. The mornings are very calm on Brightwood; however, the afternoon is a different story. I have witnessed cars speeding (including a resident on Brightwood) and stopping in the middle of the street to pick-up their children after school. There is no structure for this increase in traffic flow and the city does need to address it.

Why cutting off trail access would be contrary to city plans:

According to "The Big Picture" as quoted on the city's Community Services & Parks and Recreation webpage:

"Perhaps the most important feature of our 72-mile trail system is that it promotes a **CONTINUITY** that allows different places in the city to connect to each other. Trail users will be able to safely and easily travel from point A to point B throughout the City! This **CONNECTIVITY** will unite the City and provide corridors to access work, **school**, and recreation."

There is an alternate route from Questhaven to access the trail down the street; however, this is not a safe route because of the steep, slippery incline/decline of the trail. Most people walk with strollers and this simply is not an option. I would take that route just to stay away from the Brightwood drama, but it is not safe to walk. Speaking of actions taken by the some of the Brightwood residents since this has all started, they have had the gate latch moved to the opposite side of the gate making it impossible for short children to reach up to open it. I had previously communicated this to Kimberly Perez, the San Elijo Hills Community Director. It is also difficult to maneuver the stroller and try to unlatch it from the other side. We live on a cul-de-sac street and our gate has a handle at waist level, as it should be located. Not to go off on a tangent, but as an example, what if there was a handicapped person in a wheel chair trying to access the latch at the Brightwood gate? They would not be able to reach it. (You're probably asking yourself what a person in a wheelchair would be doing on the trail in the first place. I know several athletic people with paraplegia who have extremely strong upper bodies that can maneuver a wheelchair down a decline.) The gate used to push/pull open as with other gates in the community but again, the Brightwood residents seemed to have had that changed and at that same time, they posted their own notices on the gate asking people to take a different route. The notices are still posted and this I know is against city code as well as our community CC&R's. Recently, a Brightwood resident set up

a Girl Scout Cookie sale directly blocking the gate in which I had to squeeze the stroller through to get by. It seems like they are trying to discourage people from using that route, and blocking a public-right-of-way violates city code 12:24.030.

In closing, I feel that the gate on Brightwood could not be locked for the following reasons:

1. The trail is part of the "Master Trail Plan" and is adjacent to a public right-of-way (the gate to the sidewalk as public access).
2. It is to my understanding that all cul-de-sac communities that are adjacent to the trail system have gates to access those trails. They are supposed to be unlocked at all times mainly for fire safety personnel access with the exception of "gated" communities that are required to have a "rapid entry system" in the event of a fire.
3. Crestview (neighborhood name) is NOT a gated community and again, is adjacent to a public trail offering a public right-of-way to that trail system.

Lastly, as I had mentioned, this seems to be a traffic issue that needs to be addressed, not a "gate" issue in an attempt to prevent the public from using a public street (Brightwood Drive) and sidewalks to access a public trail system. It seems like it would be more economically feasible to have a sheriff's deputy's presence available for two hours per day during the school year.

If the city decides to lock the gate on Brightwood, then the city needs to lock ALL cul-de-sac gates in the city of San Marcos. That doesn't seem reasonable, does it?

Thank you very much for the hearing notice and the opportunity to comment on this issue. We look forward to a positive outcome that will focus on the safety of the children, not one that would benefit personal interests of the Brightwood Drive cul-de-sac.

Please do not take my comments as being argumentative to you personally, they are simply meant to communicate facts and opinion on the subject matter.

Best regards,

Adrienne Wagemester

7489 Anchor Place  
San Marcos, CA 92078

Phone: 702.142.7899

## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** *Kyle Hoffman (kylehoffman@gmail.com)*  
**Sent:** Friday, February 11, 2011 8:15 AM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Brightwood Resident Re: Time-Lock Gate

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I own and live at ~~1000 Brightwood~~ and am all for the reduction of traffic on Brightwood during the week. My only question would be is the lock code enabled or not. I realize a code could be distributed, keys could be copied etc but I know my wife goes hiking a lot so locking that gate would restrict that entry/ exit for hiking. Its not a huge deal but something to consider. Thanks

Kyle & Cheri Hoffman

**Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** *raybahadori@comcast.net*  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 12, 2011 10:34 AM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Time-lock gate at Brightwood Dr.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Lydia,

I received a letter in the mail today regarding proposal for locking the gate Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am and again from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm during the school year.

I am very much in favor of this, I find it very dangerous and unsafe with all the cars speeding through the cul de sac to drop off their kids. Traffic during drop off and pick up is night mare.

But I have some concerns:

- 1) Locking the gate on Brightwood will send those driving parents to the street above (Clifftop Ave) which has the same set up. It is a cul de sac and it has the same gate.
- 2) How would the resident on Brightwood Dr. use the gate to send their kids to school?

I look forward to learn more about this and how this proposal will improve my neighborhood.

Best regards,

*Ray*

Ray Bahadori

## **Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** Monica KC Strang [strangm@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 2:19 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Please don't lock the gate on Brightwood Drive.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Lydia Romero,

My name is Monica Strang and I live in the Waterford community of San Elijo Hills. I received the letter in the mail today stating that San Marcos is considering locking the gate at the end of Brightwood Drive during certain times of the day.

For our family, the impact of this would be enormously dreadful. This request greatly concerns me as I frequently walk along that trail during those times in the mornings. I see several others walking along that trail and locking the gate would prevent any of us from that path. I enjoy that path very much since it is away from the busy streets and it feels safe during those times. I haven't had any problems with the traffic in that neighborhood and I feel very safe if I walk with my kids there.

I was also looking forward to walking my daughter to school next year when she starts kindergarten at the Elementary School that goes along that trail. I wanted to teach her the value of walking to places that are nearby instead of having to drive everywhere. Yes, we could go the long way to the path along the road, but that road gets very loud and busy during those times. It doesn't seem safe when we walk right next to a road with busy cars. It wouldn't be pleasant at all and it seems ridiculous to go so far out of the way when there is a gate and trail for that exact purpose.

One of the reasons we decided to live in San Marcos/San Elijo Hills was because of the wonderful trails it has for people to be able to walk along. If the gate is being locked because of traffic problems (of which I have not seen), then block off the street. Don't lock the gate and punish those of us who wish to walk along the trails. It seems as if a few people in the Brightwood neighborhood want to treat this gate as their own private property when it is on public property. Since it is on public property, it should be accessible to the public at all times, not just certain times that a few of the home owners want it open. It's simply not fair to the rest of the public. The trails are such an asset to our community. It would be a shame to 'lock them up.'

I ask that you consider other solutions rather than locking the public gate from public access.

Thank you for your time and attention to how others feel in the community. I know you will do the right thing for the general public. I really appreciate it.

-- Monica Strang

Resident of Waterford Community

## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** Erin Easterly [mailto:[Erin.Easterly@mindbodyhealth.com](mailto:Erin.Easterly@mindbodyhealth.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 14, 2011 3:27 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Brightwood Gate Hearing

Hello Lydia,

I am a resident of San Elijo Hills and use the Brightwood trail to daily walk my children to school. Though I can understand the concerns that the residents of Brightwood have brought to light, I nonetheless feel that the trail remain open to untimed public access for the following reasons:

1. San Elijo was founded on the principle of open trail access for all. Many of us have purchased property here with the ability to walk our children to both elementary and middle school as a deciding factor. Due to the steep incline the adjacent trail is not easily accessible to those individuals who push a stroller or whose children ride bikes to school. I push a double stroller it would be recklessly unsafe for me to take that route.
2. The public tax dollars have paid for the trail and as such it should remain available to all San Elijo residents who would like to use it. If the Brightwood residents were the only ones whose tax dollars had been used to create as well as maintain the trail then they might have a valid case for time locking the gate. However, that not being the case, all those whose money has contributed to the trail should have equal and untimed access to it.
3. As I understand it, the primary issue that the Brightwood residents have is the volume of afternoon traffic from 3:15-3:45. (Mornings are very calm on that street and even the sheriffs who were summoned by the Brightwood residents saw absolutely no problem with the morning traffic flow. It appears that the police have even found no problems with the afternoon traffic flow and the Brightwood residents are turning to the city to indirectly address the issue that they perceive as a problem -one has to wonder if there is a vested interest in this issue outside of the stated objectives.) Locking the gate is an indirect way of addressing the issue of traffic and it penalizes the walkers who have in no way contributed to the perceived problem.
4. In the event of an emergency circumstance, such as fire, a time locked gate leading to the nearest street, seems to be a very unsafe option.
5. If the Brightwood trail gate is locked in the afternoons there are many children who will be crossing the busy intersection at Questhaven. This will not only impede traffic flow on a major thoroughfare but will needlessly subject many children to potential harm (from cars, pedophiles, etc.)

In short, it seems that there are other available options other than denying access to a public trail. Perhaps a volunteer sheriff could patrol the area for 30 minutes daily. It seems like a sounder alternative than locking the gate. I'm sure that there are other solutions which will hopefully come to light at the meeting on Thursday.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments,  
Erin Easterly  
Mariner's Landing Resident

**Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** Monday, February 14, 2011 9:22 PM  
**Sent:** Romero, Lydia  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Gate closure at Brightwood

Hi Lydia - I am so disappointed to see that the gate closure at Brightwood has come to a hearing. As a former Community Services Commissioner for the past 6 years, the idea of locking a gate to our public trail system is very disappointing. Many families utilize this as a way to pick up their children after school. The design on San Elijo Elementary School is a traffic nightmare due to poor planning, and many families help congestion down at School House Way by having their children utilize our public trails system.

I plan on attending the meeting on Thursday evening. Will Craig be present at this meeting?

Thanks,  
Holly Barrett

## **Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** *Jess & Jane Trotta [ljtrotta@gmail.com](mailto:ljtrotta@gmail.com)*  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:46 AM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Brightwood Drive gate

Dear Ms. Lydia Romero-

I am writing you today in regards to the locking of the Brightwood Drive gate. By proceeding with the time-lock of the gate you will be following the request of only a few who know how to make a lot of noise. It sets a terrible example. If you whine loud enough, you will get what you want. It is obvious who whats the gate locked, you can see them standing outside their doors glaring at the people walking/driving down their street. Ironically, I have seen those same people whipping in and out of their driveways, cruising up or down the street at the same speed they are complaining about others driving down their streets. It seems they feel they are allowed to speed down "their" street.

I am a walker and use that gate everyday. It hardly seems fair to take away access to the trail for all. We love walking to school and it is something my kids and I enjoy doing everyday. We use that time as exercise and a time to talk to each other. It builds a sense of community seeing all the same people walking everyday. The walking aspect of the community really draws people here. You have to have access to the trails to have walkers in the community. The others who do live on that street and walk to school are loosing that too.

I understand the safety issues that have been brought up but locking the gate is not the best solution. I would suggest sending an officer down randomly, and I emphasize randomly, to make sure people are abiding by the traffic rules. That way drivers will be more aware consistently. The officers that were sent before only helped for the two weeks they sat on the street.

I hope you are able to see that there are other alternatives. Locking the gate will hurt the community tremendously.

I am sorry I will not be at the meeting on the 17th but I hope you will consider this as my voice.

Best regards

Jane Trotta

## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** Megan Beck (meganbeck1@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:54 AM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Brightwood Drive Hearing

Hello Ms. Romero,

I just bought a home on Brightwood Drive two months ago. And I have noticed a substantial amount of traffic on the street. But there is a lot of traffic on most streets that time of day because of all the parents that drive their kids to and from school each day. I do not live at the end of the cul-de-sac, so I don't have to deal with people blocking my driveway, etc. But it seems to me that both groups on this issue are more concerned about being right, rather than what is right. The gate was put there for the use of people who WALK to school. No lock should be necessary if all parties involved can agree to a plan that would benefit both sides. The gate can remain unlocked at all times, so that those on our street, as well as those not on our street can use the gate for WALKING to school. Those that are driving could just as easily meet their kids at the trail head that goes parallel to Brightwood Drive and converges at Questhaven Park. There is plenty of street parking around the park for parents to wait for their children there. If the city could just stipulate the primary purpose for the gate, as well as the walking trails, it seems to me that using the walking trails and parking that are currently provided would be a solution that everyone could be happy with.

I understand that the trail that goes behind our house could be a little steep for mothers who walk their children in strollers to school. But if they could continue to use Brightwood Drive, and the parents who are dropping off could use the walking trail behind Brightwood Drive, then everyone could be served to their benefit. There would no longer need to be such hostility and divisiveness among San Elijo neighbors. I truly hope that the city will just do what is right, not be concerned with who is right.

Thank you for your time!

Megan Beck

## **Romero, Lydia**

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**From:** Priscilla Lapeyre [Priscilla.Lapeyre@cox.net](mailto:Priscilla.Lapeyre@cox.net)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 12:18 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Locking the Brightwood Gate

Dear Lydia,

I am a resident of Brightwood Drive [1045](http://1045) I am discovering that I have been "out of the loop" so to speak when it comes to the gate issue.

While I am in favor of some sort of solution to ease the traffic on the street, I am vehemently against locking the gate so that the residents of Crestview do not have any access. I have 3 three children who walk to school every single day and we benefit from the use of the gate on a daily basis.

I am bothered by the fact that some residents at the end of the street feel they represent all of Crestview.. This is not the case.

I intend to be at the meeting Thursday but I hope that you will have me on record as being AGAINST locking the gate from residents of the street!

Sincerely,

Priscilla Lapeyre

## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** *From: Romero, Lydia*  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 2:19 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Brightwood Gate  
**Attachments:** --sponsored--heartplant\_tc.gif



Hello Lydia,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Erin Semel and I have lived in San Elijo Hills for 6 years now. When we purchased our homes we were told about the town center, the schools and over 18 miles of trails. These were all selling points for us and gave us the reason for purchasing here with much higher tax rate then say Discovery Hills area. We, like the other 7000 residents who live here loved the idea of a small community that could be self contained (to a point). Having the access to two outstanding schools right down the trail is exactly why we love living here.

Having said that I have seen the population triple in the time we moved into San Elijo Hills until now, and I know with growth some growing pains come as well. I am one of the people whose children use the trail at Brightwood in the morning and afternoon. I have heard the concern before with the residents in this area and I do understand why they might be bothered. On the other hand, when we moved into this community we actually looked at those houses and decided not to buy there because it was right at a trail head and we knew they were going to put the elementary school at the bottom. So we chose not to, others maybe did not have the foresight or they just didn't care but they chose to buy their house right next to a trail head. I think that when anyone makes a huge purchase such as a house due diligence is a huge part of the process. If you don't have any concerns about placement for example, are you next to a major street, school, baseball field etc.. then you may will find yourself in this predicament. I do not believe it is the City of San Marcos place to punish thousands so a few who are unhappy will not be unhappy anymore. I can see no reason that this trail head should be locked. I find it to be disingenuous and dangerous for the rest of San Elijo Hills.

I have been using this trail for two years and it is awesome. I wonder under what type of law would the city of San Marcos close down a public trail when there has been no evidence of any problems at all. I don't believe there have been any children that have been hurt, no laws have been broken. While I know for 20 mins twice a day these people happen to have a problem with the rest of the community using "their" trail, hence the hearing. From my understanding of it, we have paid our taxes for 6 years that are almost double of any other community around here, we have all been promised the 18 miles of OPEN trails and we have all signed our mortgages and accepted what is around us. I hope the City of San Marcos takes all of this into consideration and I will see

you on Thursday.

Thanks

Erin Semel

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## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** Megan Brunson [meganbrunson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 2:42 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Please don't lock the gate at the culdesac on Brightwood

I am a mother of four kids that walks my kids to and from San Elijo Elementary school. We walk to school for many reasons and love using the street and the trails to get to school. Walking takes less time than actually driving to school and me and my children stay healthy for doing so. We use the culdesac on Brightwood because the trail is too steep to push a double jogging stroller up and down. Some times my children will ride their bikes and scooters too and it is to dangerous on the trail. I am always with my children. I never let them walk alone. Please don't lock the gate.

Sincerely,  
Megan Brunson

## Romero, Lydia

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**From:** Gena Simmons [Gena.Simmons.Junior@gmail.com](mailto:Gena.Simmons.Junior@gmail.com)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 15, 2011 2:24 PM  
**To:** Romero, Lydia  
**Subject:** Gate Closure Issue in San Elijo Hills

Dear Lydia Romero:

I am writing to you as a concerned San Elijo Hills Homeowner and Mother. I am vaguely familiar with this issue as my children and I use the gate to walk along the trail to and from school and also just to take walks many days of the year. We have seen the signs and the officers on the street.

My concerns are these:

1. This is a public walk through gate and a public street
2. This community prides itself on it's trails and the ability to walk, be outdoors and use the trails.
3. It is healthy for our children to walk to school, get exercise and breath fresh air. Our community should support that.
4. The more students that walk to school along the trails means less cars on the community streets. I would estimate at least 150-200 kids walk through this gate to get to school each day.
5. Dozens of people use this gate to walk the trails during these hours, not just students and their families walking to school.
6. In a community with as many young families and school-aged children as we have, there is going to be traffic during the hours of school drop off and pick up. I believe having our children walk on a safe trail is a better solution to keeping more cars off the road and keeping our children safe.
7. It is healthy to see the big picture and do what is best for the common good.

I am curious how the other homeowners on this block with school-aged children feel about the potential closure. This would mean if their children wanted to walk to school or if they wanted to take a walk in the designated hours, they would have to go way out of the way instead of using the gate at the end of their own block.

I understand the concern for safety and agree with that point. It seems to me since the complaints started and the officers have patrolled, the number of cars has decreased. I believe that if tickets were given for speeding or loitering, that would help the problem, if there is still a big problem. I have rarely seen children playing at these times as most of them are in school or napping. And even so, if your children are playing outside, they need to be supervised and learn to watch carefully for cars—this is a fact of life. If these parents are so concerned for safety, the could very feasibly let their children play ALL day long and have them come inside when school is being dismissed, 3:00-4pm. The 1-4 pm is completely unnecessary and exaggerated.

We would all like to close our streets off and make them completely safe for our children, but this should not be an option in a public community. I live on a small cul de sac, and after school there are people driving in and dropping kids off from school. There are a lot of cars that circle in our street just to turn around. There is nothing I can do to stop them, and I surely wouldn't consider closing off my street to public traffic. In a community with as many young families and school-aged children as we have, there is going to be traffic during the hours of school drop off and pick up. I believe having our children walk on a safe trail is a better solution to keeping more cars off the road and keeping our children safe.

In conclusion, it saddens me that certain homeowners cannot bend for and see the most positive situation for the common good of the community. I hope we can resolve this issue in the best way to benefit the most people in our small, close-knit community.

Thank you for your attention to this issue and hearing all of our thoughts and concerns. Please feel free to call with any questions at the numbers below.

I am going to do my best to attend the meeting but would love to hear any updates on this matter via email if at all possible.

Thank you again.

Gena Simmons