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**VILLAGE WEST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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**TO:** VILLAGE WEST RESIDENTS  
**FROM:** MATT VILLENAUVE – TREASURER – 34 STRATFORD  
**SUBJECT:** VILLAGE WEST TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT  
**DATE:** 9/24/09  
**CC:** THOMAS J SHERIDAN, CITY ENGINEER; DAVID W. ROBBINS, CHIEF OF POLICE;  
ANTHONY J. BALES, CITY MANAGER; DAVID A. BASIL, COUNCIL MEMBER – WARD 2;  
CHRISTOPHER J. PAPP, PROJECT MANAGER

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ORIGINATING REASON OF CONCERN

Over the past few months concern has been raised regarding increased traffic and speed in Village West. The resident's volume increased, including those on the Board of Trustees, when the construction on State Route 8 had potential to change traffic patterns with possible negative affect on our neighborhood.

CITY RESOURCES

We would like to thank David Basil, our City Ward 2 Councilman and Anthony Bales, City Manager for kick-starting the study. Christopher Papp, Project Manager, City of Hudson has been instrumental in gathering the data required to make educated analysis of our current situation with the assistance of Thomas Sheridan, City Engineer. Of course, we need to express our gratitude to Chief of Police, David Robbins and his officers for their increased presence in our neighborhood.

EFFORTS

*Stratford and Prescott Traffic Analysis-Christopher J. Papp, P.E.*

Mr. Papp's analysis comparing 2004 to 2009 data is enclosed for your review. The premise of his document is based on worry related to the ongoing Route 8 construction and impact on neighborhood traffic.

We were fortunate that a similar study was done in 2004 so there is data to compare versus the newly gathered 2009 data. Both sets of data were gathered by an outside agency within available and allocated budgeted funds. The cost of this years study was approximately \$1000.00.

The average traffic per day when studied in 2004 was 715 vehicles per day estimated (it was not a 24 hour count at this time). The last week in July, the first week of the study, Village West peaked at 1075 vehicles per day. However, this is in conjunction with the unfinished work on Chittenden Road. The following week, the ADT dropped to 815 vehicles per day, within normal traffic patterns. Vehicle traffic count was gathered for 4 weeks. This is substantial. Normal studies are one week in length.

*Speed and Traffic Infractions*

Speed is a passionate issue for many of us. Thank you to Jim Mathers for his effort with the Hudson Police Department regarding this issue. Jim, Chief of Police Robbins and his officers have exceeded expectations.

In 2009 we have seen nine speed monitoring vehicles on Stratford, two on Prescott, 1 on Jefferson and between North Westhaven and Independence. In addition, we have all noticed officers at intermittent times monitoring speed and stop-sign violations. Average speed for those traveling through our neighborhood has been assessed at just over 30 miles per hour. Two citations have been issued in 2009.

Of course, these averages do not make us forget those few drivers that blatantly break the law and raise question regarding our safety and the wellbeing of our children. Chief Robbins has requested our help in this regard.

*Targeted Law Enforcement-Traffic Violations*

Per Chief Robbins, we can help ourselves and help The City of Hudson Police by offering better information. Simply, they do not have enough resources to constantly attend to our 104 homes and still serve the remainder of the community.

They are requesting that we contact them with the following information if a driver commonly breaks laws:

- Description of the vehicle
- License plate if known
- Common time-of-day occurrence (this is critical)

*STEP (Strategic Targeted Enforcement Program)*

The opinion of many is that the STEP program is effective in small doses. If the signs are up permanently, eventually drivers become numb to their posting. In addition, legislation changes need to be considered. David Basil, Council Member – Ward 2 and Anthony Bales, City Manager will keep us posted on the legislation changes and how and when they affect us.

Their intent is to allow us to pursue Village West as a STEP zone. However, allowing simply and easy access to establishment of a STEP zone causes problems as well. If all are STEP zones then none are.

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Crime*

We have all read or even experienced increased vehicle break-ins over the last 24-48 months. Chief Robbins does attribute this to a poor economy increasing somewhat simple crimes. Chief Robbins suggests:

- Leave NO visible valuables in your vehicle. If locked, they will still consider breaking in.
- Lock your doors, ALWAYS

None of us are immune to crime. The economy does play a factor in crime. Bad economy does equal more minor thefts.

### *Traffic Pattern Changes*

The city has requested that if we notice any traffic pattern changes that we note the changes and time of day and report it back to the city. They have proven a willingness to help. We should take them up on this offer if necessary.

### *Speed Gun*

If any of you are interested in your own independent traffic study, Chief Robbins has offered a speed gun on loan. Please contact me if you are interested. No, your kids can not play with the speed gun!

## CLOSURE

Your VWHA Board of Trustees understands your concern regarding these issues. I take great comfort in the time, effort and expense our city has spent helping us work through these issues. If you have any questions, we do welcome your emails and phone calls.

Sincerely,

Matt Villenauve  
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Village West Homeowners Association  
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