

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, ESTABLISHING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO CALM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

WHEREAS, citizens of Mesquite have expressed safety concerns regarding the volume and speed of vehicular traffic in residential areas; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Transportation Code prescribes the authorities delegated to municipalities with respect to transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Transportation Code empowers the Texas Transportation Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation with certain authorities to prescribe statewide transportation policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mesquite is obligated to follow said policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to address citizens' safety concerns regarding the volume and speed of vehicular traffic in residential areas; and

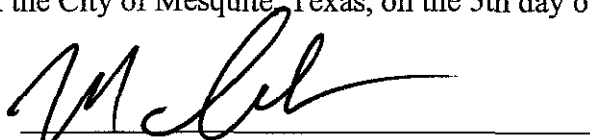
WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to establish clear, legally enforceable policies and procedures to meet their concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That policies and procedures for calming vehicular traffic in residential areas, more fully described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto, are hereby adopted.

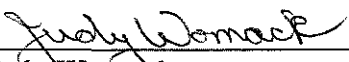
SECTION 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 5th day of April, 2004.



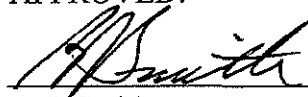
Mike Anderson
Mayor

ATTEST:



Judy Womack
City Secretary

APPROVED:



B. J. Smith
City Attorney

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
TO CALM VEHICULAR TRAFFIC
IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS

1. Purpose. To explain current City policies and procedures regarding actions that can be taken to calm vehicular traffic in residential areas.
2. Speeding. The most frequent concern raised is speeding in residential neighborhoods and the possibility of injury to pedestrians and cyclists, especially children.
 - a. If speeding is believed to occur in residential alleys, which have limited sight visibility due to the preponderance of wooden privacy fences, the City will as a first step install, upon request, 10-MPH speed limit signs at each alley entrance. If these 10-MPH signs prove ineffective, the City will at City's expense, upon receipt of a petition signed by at least 75% of the property owners abutting the alley, install speed bumps every 300 feet. Due to the limited space available in alleys, police enforcement of the 10-MPH speed limit is normally impractical.
 - b. If speeding is believed to occur along residential streets, the City will take the following actions upon request or receipt of petition:
 - (1) Citizens may request placement of a radar trailer along the street. The City has two radar trailers that rotate throughout the City. These radar trailers are placed for a one-week period and have been effective in reducing speeds by informing drivers of the speed they are traveling as well as reminding them of the posted speed limit. These radar trailers also inform residents of the actual speed that vehicles travel through their neighborhood.
 - (2) Citizens may request speed zone enforcement by the Police Department. When making a request for speed zone enforcement, it is extremely helpful to inform the Police of the time of day and day of week they are most likely to observe the speeding problem. If the type or license number of a repeat speeder is known, this should also be relayed to the Police Department when making the request. Generally speaking, the Police Department will assign a patrol officer to enforce the speed limit on three separate days.
 - (3) Citizens may request the City restrict parking along one or both sides of a residential street to improve visibility between vehicle drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. The citizen request must be presented to the City Council and accompanied by a petition signed by 75% of the affected households. If City Council approves the request, the City Code will be amended to allow enforcement of the parking restrictions and "No Parking" signs will be posted at the City's expense.

- (4) Citizens desiring a speed limit lower than 30 MPH may request the City perform a detailed neighborhood traffic study. Prior to submitting the official request, citizens should first contact the City's Traffic Engineering Division to clearly identify the neighborhood to be studied. In general, a neighborhood is not a single street but several streets bounded by higher speed streets. Once the neighborhood is identified, a petition signed by 25% of the affected households agreeing to the study and implementation of a lower speed limit, if warranted by the traffic study, should be submitted to the City's Traffic Engineering Division. The City will then conduct the traffic study per Section 545.356(a) of the Texas Transportation Code and determine if a lower speed limit is justified. If the study results indicate a lower speed limit is warranted, the City will then amend the City Code and install the appropriate signage. The City will only perform the neighborhood traffic calming study once every three years unless there is a significant event that changes the traffic patterns, such as the addition of a new subdivision.
 - (5) Due to established City policy or State law, the City cannot do the following:
 - (a) Install speed humps or bumps along the streets due to their adverse impact on Police and Fire Department response.
 - (b) Install STOP signs that do not meet the requirements of the Texas Transportation Commission's Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
 - (6) Actions that citizens in neighborhoods can take to improve safety are:
 - (a) Drive at or below 30-MPH or the posted speed limit.
 - (b) Teach children how to safely cross the street and discourage children from playing in streets and alleys.
 - (c) Park cars in driveways and garages to improve sight visibility along streets.
 - (d) Actively participate in or establish a neighborhood Crime Watch program through the Police Department.
3. Cut-through traffic. Another frequent concern raised by citizen's is cut-through traffic that passes through neighborhoods at certain times of the day. Since all streets and alleys are public streets supported with tax dollars, it is the policy of the City that anyone can drive on any public street or alley at any time. There have been very rare occasions when the volume of cut-through traffic has adversely affected accessibility or safety within a neighborhood. In these instances, the City conducts detailed studies of the causes and remedies prior to making a decision on what actions, if any, to take.

4. New Residential Development. The City actively encourages new residential developments to incorporate physical features that by their nature calm traffic by keeping speeds at or below 30-MPH. Traffic calming features include:
 - a. Curvilinear streets (for example, the Cantura Cove subdivision).
 - b. Traffic circles (for example at the end of Cartwright Road in the Falcon's Lair subdivision).
 - c. Traffic diverters that prevent certain traffic movements.
 - d. Chokers that narrow the roadway width.
 - e. Chicanes that change a wide street to a narrower curvilinear street.
5. Contacts.
 - a. Traffic Engineering Division, 972-216-6215, via email at www.cityofmesquite.com.
 - b. Police Department, 972-216-6628