

MINUTES
Public Hearing of the College Park City Council
Petition Request for Traffic Calming Devices on 51st Place Between
Lackawanna Street and Mangum Road

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Brayman; Councilmembers Molinatto (arrived 7:06 p.m.), Wojahn, Catlin, Perry, Stulich, Mark Cook, Hampton and Mary Cook; Student Liaison Danielle Kogut.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Joe Nagro, City Manager; Suellen Ferguson, City Attorney; Janeen Miller, City Clerk; Sara Imhulse, Assistant to the City Manager; Steve Halpern, City Engineer.

Mayor Brayman opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m. and announced the purpose was to take public comment on the Petition Request for Traffic Calming devices on 51st Place between Lackawanna Street and Mangum Road. Mayor Brayman noted that the web site advertisement of this public hearing listed the incorrect date; therefore, the record will be held open until March 25, and the Council will take additional comment at that time. Mayor Brayman invited Steve Halpern to provide an overview.

Mr. Halpern stated the residents of the 9700 block of 51st Place petitioned the City to install traffic calming to control traffic. A 48-hour traffic study was conducted at 9727 51st Place on November 8 - 9, 2007. 6.5% of all vehicles traveled in excess of 35 mph; the speeding threshold is 15%, so speeding was not identified as a problem. The average daily traffic was 139 vehicles; the volume threshold is 500 vehicles, so traffic volume warrants were also not met. Therefore, staff does not recommend the installation of traffic calming measures at this time.

Tyler Kutch, 9713 51st Place: He spoke in favor of speed bumps and believes there is a speeding problem. Suggests having the traffic study conducted at the bottom of the hill. Raised concerns about safety of children playing on the block.

Dinah Merica, 9710 51st Place: She spoke in favor of speed bumps; she witnesses speeding daily. Thinks the traffic counters might have slowed people down. Her husband's vehicle has been hit numerous times. Raised concerns about safety of children playing on the block.

Angel Hernandez, 9731 51st Place: He is the petitioner. One person on his block drives with excess speed and police have spoken with her. Thinks the speed bumps are necessary.

Councilmember Perry asked if there are sidewalks. Mr. Hernandez confirmed there are sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Miguel Gonzalez, 9747 51st Place (speaking through Mr. Hernandez): He supports the speed bumps - he has three children and wants this measure to protect the children.

Dundas Orr, Jr., 9721 51st Place: He supports the installation of speed bumps, he sees speeding and states it is a narrow road due to cars parked on both sides.

Christian James, 9730 51st Place: He spoke in favor of traffic calming. There are children, elderly and handicapped residents who may not be able to react as quickly to speeding cars on the narrow street.

Daysi Santos and Mario Ovalle, 9741 51st Place: Spoke in favor of speed bumps; speeding is a problem and there are kids on the street.

Mayor Brayman and Councilmember Stullich asked Mr. Halpern about the placement of the traffic counters.

Mayor Brayman reiterated that the public record would be held open until March 25 for additional written and oral testimony due to a typo in the web site advertising. The Council will consider action on this item at that time.

The Public Hearing was declared closed at 7:25 p.m.

Janeen S. Miller, City Clerk