

VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
9446 Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn Illinois 60453
Village Hall Auditorium
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Thursday, August 5, 2021 #2021-4

I. ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

- A. Chairman:** Norm Lupescu
- B. Members:** Drew Butler Ken Nork
John Cody Andy Skoundrianos
Laurentine Grady Ted Sochacki
Norm Lupescu
- C. Staff:** Donald E. McKenna, Building & Zoning Administrator
Dennis Skoda, Public Works Department
Ofc. Mark Hollingsworth, Oak Lawn Police Department (*ABS*)
Deanne Adasiak, Recording Secretary

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Lupescu.

III. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes #2021-3 June 3, 2021 was made by Member Skoundrianos and was seconded by Member Grady.

Roll call: Butler, yes; Cody, yes; Grady, yes; Lupescu, yes; Nork, yes; Skoundrianos, yes; Sochacki, yes.

Motion to approve passes: 7-0-0.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) TC-1286-SS-Request for 4-way Stop Signs at 98th Street & Kilbourn:

Ms. Rita McElroy, 9821 S. Kilbourn, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Ms. Dana Windberg, 9812 S. Kilbourn, Oak Lawn, Illinois

Ms. McElroy said that she has lived at her residence since December 1, 1970. She expressed that she has enjoyed it thoroughly. She expressed that presently there is a situation that must be corrected. Ms. McElroy said there was a time that you could not come off of Southwest Highway to access Kilbourn. She stated that this has now been changed, and drivers can now access Southwest Highway and drive south. She mentioned the stop signs at 96th and 97th Street and said there is no stop sign at 98th Street. She stated that there have been several serious accidents in that area. She said there are nine children on one side of the block between 98th and 99th Streets. She is requesting a 4-way stop sign at 98th and Kilbourn. Ms. McElroy stated that she truly believes we are avoiding a death as a result of all of the accidents.

Ms. McElroy asked that the Commissioners consider her request. Ms. McElroy is unsure why stop signs were installed at other intersections but not at 98th Street.

Ms. Windberg went on to say that on average, an accident occurs every month. On Christmas Day, a car crashed into the corner house, she said. She stated that this has been a problem for a long time. She stated that she does not allow her children to play in the front yard because it is a recurring issue. Ms. Windberg feels this is a safety issue.

Member Grady asked whether this is a significant issue for east and west traffic. According to Ms. Windberg, it is a problem in both directions. She claims that drivers traveling north and south should slow down at the yield sign, but they do not. Ms. Windberg asked that the Commission consider her request. Because of the increased traffic and speed, Ms. McElroy believes it is critical that it is a 4-way stop sign.

Member Grady asked staff if there are any traffic accident reports. Mr. McKenna responded no. He suggested that Public Works conduct a traffic study and staff will check with the Police Department. Ms. McElroy asked Mr. McKenna what a traffic study is going to do when she is telling the Commission right now what is happening. Mr. McKenna responded that everyone wants a stop sign at the end of their block and it is not feasible. Ms. McElroy stated that this is a child-friendly area where accidents have occurred, and she does not want this to be delayed. Member Lupescu stated that we must follow a set of rules, and the traffic study must be done first. He stated that he is not saying that stop signs will not be placed, but that a traffic study must be conducted in order to justify the addition of stop signs. Ms. McElroy said she is only here for one reason. She does not want anyone killed at this intersection. Ms. Windberg asked what the timeline will be for the traffic study and for the police reports. Mr. McKenna replied that the reports will be available for the next meeting. He said he is not sure of the schedule for the Traffic Study. He said normally it can be provided in 30 days. Ms. Windberg questioned as to how far back the police reports would go. Mr. McKenna asked Ms. Windberg's preference regarding the timetable on the police reports. Ms. Windberg suggested six months to one year.

A motion was made by Member Grady to table the request to the next meeting in order to request a traffic study and police reports for Pet. #TC-1286-SS-Request for 4-way Stop Signs at 9th Street & Kilbourn. The motion was seconded by Member Sochacki.

Roll call: Butler, yes; Cody, yes; Grady, yes; Lupescu, yes; Nork, yes; Skoundrianos, yes; Sochacki, yes.

Motion to table passes: 7-0.

B.) TC-1287-M-Request Guard Rail Barriers at Southeast Corner of 103rd St. and Laramie:

Ms. Kellie Weber, 10301 S. Laramie Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Ms. Donna Weber, 5337 Oakdale, S. Oak Lawn, Illinois.

Ms. Weber stated that she has lived at her current address for the past seven years. She stated that there have been numerous accidents over the last seven years. According to Ms. Weber, the

vehicles seem to end up on her front lawn. She stated that it appears that the accidents have gotten worse. Mrs. Weber shared photos of the accidents. Ms. Weber said that the accidents are horrific. She reiterated that cars have landed on her front lawn and very close to her house. Ms. Weber said it is very traumatizing to see these accidents. She expressed concern that a car will end up crashing into her bedroom wall. Ms. Weber said there is nothing to protect or block her home from the vehicles. Ms. Weber mentioned there was another accident at this corner just this morning. Mrs. Weber said the house is on the southeast corner. She said they are requesting a guard rail along the 103rd block. Mrs. Weber said they took a look around the neighborhood for other guard rails and she feels that most of the guard rails are not even at intersections.

Mr. Skoda commented that the subject area is a Cook County road. Mrs. Weber said the street may be but the parkway is Oak Lawn's authority. Mr. Skoda said it is Cook County highway and also mentioned that there are a number of utilities in the ground and he does not think Cook County would add a guard rail in that area. Mr. Skoda said he has been with the Public Works Department for 25 years and has not installed a brand new guard rail in 25 years. He said the guard rails that the petitioner may have seen have been around for a very long time.

The petitioner reiterated that she would feel better knowing that there was some protection to prevent a car from going through her bedroom window. Member Grady asked if the request is for a guard rail to be placed on 103rd Street or on Laramie Avenue. Mrs. Weber said the request is for 103rd Street. The petitioner repeated her safety concerns, stating that even mowing her grass is dangerous due to the frequency of accidents.

Mr. McKenna reminded the Commissioners and the audience that this is a Public meeting and to not have private sidebar discussions. He asked that the Commissioners and petitioners speak one at a time so that there is a good record of the meeting.

Mr. McKenna said Officer Hollingsworth provided information that indicates that since 2010 there have been 84 accidents at this intersection.

Mr. Skoda said he can almost guarantee that Cook County will not place a permanent structure on the corner. Mrs. Weber said the traffic light itself has come down several times. Mr. Skoda said they are made to break away. Mr. Skoda said he looked at the pictures provided by the petitioner and said all the accidents are in the street or parkway, not in the petitioner's front yard. Mrs. Weber indicated that her daughter's bedroom is very close to the parkway.

Member Lupescu expressed that 103rd Street is a Cook County Highway. Member Lupescu suggested that the petitioner reach out to their District Trustee. Mrs. Weber said they have reached out to her Trustee and to Cook County. Mrs. Weber stated that she was told two years ago to contact someone at Cook County. She stated that she does not recall his name, but that he retired a few years ago. Mrs. Weber said she did connect with him but then Covid happened and then he retired. Mr. McKenna said he will check with Cook County and ultimately take this request to the Village Board of Trustees.

Member Grady made a motion for staff to pursue the barriers through Cook County for Pet. #

*TC-1287-M Request Guard Rail Barriers at the Southeast Corner of 103rd St. and Laramie.
The motion was seconded by Member Nork.*

Roll call: Butler, yes; Cody, yes; Grady, yes; Lupescu, yes; Nork, yes; Skoundrianos, yes; Sochacki, yes.

Motion passes: 7-0.

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

A.) Chairman: None

B.) Members: None

C.) Staff: None

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Grady and was seconded by Member Butler.

Voice Vote: All in favor, aye.

Motion to adjourn passes.

The meeting ended at 7:57 p.m.