

VILLAGE OF OAK LAWN
9446 Raymond Avenue Oak Lawn Illinois 60453
Village Hall Auditorium
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Thursday, September 2, 2021 #2021-5

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
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 #2021-4 August 5, 2021 was made by Member Sochacki and was seconded by Member Butler.

Roll call: Sochacki, yes; Skoundrianos, yes; Nork, yes; Lupescu, yes; Grady, yes; Cody, yes; Butler, 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 (returning 8/4/2021):**

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

The Commission reviewed the traffic counts and unanimously agreed to support the request of 4-way stop signs at 98th Street & Kilbourn.

A motion was made by Member Lupescu to approve Pet. #TC-1286-SS-Request for 4-way Stop Signs at 98th Street & Kilbourn. The motion was seconded by Member Skoundrianos.

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

Motion to table passes: 7-0.

B.) TC-1286-M-Request removal of stop sign at 5501 West 99th St. and replace with speed bump at east 55th Avenue and 99th St.

Mr. Philip Wrobel, 5501 West 99th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453.

Member Lupescu indicated that the stop signs were requested by the Chief of Police.

The petitioner believes that traffic on 99th Street should be reduced. The petitioner claims that with the new stop signs in place, the stop signs are not at the intersection, but rather directly in front of his house. He mentioned that people driving by have a direct view of his house. He stated that he has a large dog who becomes agitated when cars stop in front of his house. He expressed that people do not stop at stop signs. He stated that it is a problem. He also mentioned that because of the stop sign, he is unable to park in front of his home.

The petitioner stated that he pays a lot in property taxes and he values the schools in our community, but he does not believe it is fair that he cannot park in front of his house due to the stop sign. He expressed that if the police were policing and enforcing the speed limit on 99th Street, stop signs would not be necessary. According to the petitioner, one of his neighbors mentioned that a police car sits out in front of their house in the middle of the night to catch drivers who do not stop, and eventually accelerate loudly when attempting to catch the driver so that a citation can be issued.

The petitioner stated that he was told that a petition was distributed to neighbors asking them to sign in support of the stop sign. He claimed that none of the residents he spoke with were aware of the new stop signs. He claims that the majority of his neighbors believe it is excessive. The petitioner stated that he proposed speed bumps but was told that this was not a possibility. According to the petitioner, a yield sign could be effective and it would allow for him to park in front of his home. The petitioner expressed that there are other stop signs in the area that make sense to him but he feels the subject stop sign is problematic.

Member Butler expressed that he sympathizes with the petitioner's inability to park in front of his home. He stated that he lives nearby the petitioner and mentioned that he has a fire hydrant in front of his house and is also unable to park in front of his house. He stated that it is difficult for him because he has three children who are drivers. Member Butler also stated that the new stop signs on 99th Street make him feel that the area is safer with the amount of traffic on the street.

Member Skoundrianos stated that it is a redundant location and he feels that the stop sign should not be located there. He said he feels that it is not comparable to a fire hydrant that has been in place for years, and that the petitioner moved in long before the stop sign was installed. Member Skoundrianos also stated that the first time he drove in the area after the stop sign was placed, he didn't notice the sign because it was difficult to see going east. He said if the neighbors did not want the stop sign, he does not understand why it's there.

Officer Hollingsworth said that both he and the Chief Police completely support the stop sign. Officer Hollingsworth said the Police Chief received several emails from residents on that block and also from patrons from the baseball field that support the stop sign. Officer

Hollingsworth stated that, in terms of enforcement, the petitioner mentioned a police car in front of his neighbor's residence, which demonstrate that the police have a presence and are patrolling that area. He said understands that there is a learning curve because it is a new stop sign.

Mr. Skoda stated that the stop sign is legally and properly placed. Mr. Skoda said if they replaced the stop sign with a yield sign, it would be placed in the exact same spot. The petitioner said a yield sign would allow him to park in front of his home. Mr. Skoda responded and said that it is not necessarily true as it would still remain a restricted intersection. Member Skoundrianos said it is not an intersection. Mr. Skoda said part of it is a 3-way intersection. Mr. Skoda reminded the Commissioners that the stop sign was approved the first time around. He said there initially was one stop sign and this Board approved an all-way stop sign and it is an intersection.

A motion was made by Member Lupescu to deny Pet. # TC-1286-M-Request removal of stop sign at 5501 West 99th St. and replace with speed bump at east 55th Avenue and 99th St. The motion was seconded by Member Grady.

Roll call: Sochacki, yes; Skoundrianos, no; Nork, no; Lupescu, yes; Grady, yes; Cody, yes; Butler, yes.

Motion passes: 5-2.

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.