

TO: Village Council and Mayor Brown

FROM: Safety Committee, Matthew Ayer – Chair

RE: Traffic Calming Request – Miami at Mt Vernon

Old Town Center Parking Lot Lighting

Mariemont Connector – Ribbon Cutting, Landscaping Donation, Planning Steps for Miami Intersection

Date: September 27, 2024

The Safety Committee met on Wednesday September 18, 2024 at 4:30 PM. Present were Safety Committee members Matthew Ayer (Chair), Rob Bartlett (Vice Chair), and Randy York (Member); Councilmember Bob Van Stone; Village Engineer Chris Ertel; Police Chief Rick Hines; Fiscal Officer Kelly Rankin; and Residents KC & Bill Dent, Marianne Schmidt, Louise Schomburg, Pat Van Stone, Amy Banister, Joyce Monger, and Bruce Trapnell.

Traffic Calming Request

Background: KC Dent, resident at 6803 Mt Vernon since 2014, requested that the Village consider adding STOP signs on Miami Rd at Mt Vernon Avenue, and on Mariemont at Cachepit to calm (slow) traffic. Mr. Ayer, Chief Hines and Mayor Brown met with Mrs. Dent at 10 AM August 6 to observe the current conditions and discuss concerns regarding vehicle speeds. After discussion, Chief Hines agreed to set up the “speed trailer” – which counts traffic and records vehicle speeds. MPD conducted the traffic count over a ~28-hour period on Tuesday-Wednesday September 10-11, 2024 on Miami. Results were shared and discussed at the meeting. (Attached to this report).

Discussion: As the trailer is a highly visible reminder to slow down, the speed data collected was considered to be questionable as representative information. The traffic count (total 1,054 vehicles total in both directions during the period) was higher than Chief Hines expected. Mrs. Dent expressed concern that a one-day, mid-week count may not be representative, and that traffic counts should include weekend periods.

Chief Hines advised that MPD does not have equipment to conduct a speed study in an unobtrusive manner. Engineer Ertel advised that the cost for a traffic engineer to provide one-day, compiled speed data at one location is approximately \$1,000. Mr. Bartlett and Engineer Ertel advised that the Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices specifies detailed criteria for implementation of a STOP sign for traffic control, based on various factors.

Mr. Ayer pointed out that the OMUTCD is specific that STOP signs are not used for speed control. Typical traffic calming measures include chicanes, islands, road narrowing, speed humps/tables, etc.

Action: Chief Hines agreed to perform additional traffic counts on two Thursday-to-Sunday periods, one each on Miami and on Mt Vernon. This information can then be compared to the OMUTCD guidelines by Engineer Ertel. The trailer will be recharged in the midnight to early AM hours when the count data shows near-zero traffic. The Safety Committee unanimously agreed to this approach.

Old Town Center Lighting

Mayor Brown assigned the Safety Committee the task of evaluating the possibility of lighting the municipal parking lot located on Chestnut Street near the Old Town Center (OTC). Chief Hines expressed a preference to add lighting for safety/security reasons, and noted that break-ins have been reported, and that a general preference would be to have some local lighting as a preventative measure. Other objectives discussed included developing a lighting plan prior to putting a repaving project on the village Permanent Improvements schedule; ensuring that lighting will not negatively impact nearby residents; energy efficiency and consistency with the ongoing LED conversion;

appropriate posts/lamps for the district consistent with our historic code; and a preference to add lighting around the lot's periphery if possible, without adding an "island" for lighting structures.

The Committee unanimously agreed to develop a lighting plan for the OTC lot; to engage Cincinnati Waldorf School (CWS) in the planning process; and to include consultation with resident Bill DeCamp of BulbsDepot for referrals to lighting design expertise.

On a side note, Ms. Schomburg and Ms. Schmidt expressed safety concerns associated with CWS students in contact with potentially polluted water of Whiskey Creek, and an incident of a child observed near the stormwater outfall at Plainville Road. Mr. Ayer agreed to discuss these concerns with CWS.

Mariemont Connector – landscaping grant, ribbon-cutting ceremony, Miami intersection planning

The Committee agreed to table this item for an upcoming meeting due to a lack of time.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

----- Matthew Ayer, Chair

----- Rob Bartlett (Vice Chair)

----- Randy York (Member)