



# USE YOUR VOICE

## Traffic/Safety Issues in Bluff Heights

By Donna Sievers

**A**re you one of the many parents, bike riders, dog walkers, or residents who are concerned about traffic issues in our neighborhood?

If so, the Board of the Bluff Heights Neighborhood Association **needs your assistance.**

Last year, several Board members met with the principal of Horace Mann, Long Beach police officers, Aliah Khan from Cindy Allen's District 2 Office, and local residents to discuss what can be done to slow traffic in our neighborhood and around Horace Mann Elementary. At that time, Aliah Khan and I communicated with Joy Contreras, the City of Long Beach's Community Relations Officer. It was our understanding that the city agreed to analyze the needs in Bluff Heights and promised to repaint missing or faded crosswalks before school started again in September 2022. Unfortunately, that has not yet happened.

In speaking to the new principal of Horace Mann, Donna Robertson, who met earlier this year with Police Commander Benson, the Bluff Heights Board is renewing our efforts to reach out to the city's officials. **Here is what we are asking the city to do:**

1. Re-paint existing crosswalks around Horace Mann.
2. Paint two additional crosswalks on the corner of 3rd and Colorado. (Currently only two sides of the four-way stop have crosswalks and it is not safe for students to cross there.)
3. Request a "rapid flashing beacon" on either Marquita and Obispo or on 3rd to slow traffic in the area.
4. Request the installation of a "no parking zone" on Vista and Obispo so that preschool and kindergarten parents can safely park and escort their children into school. (This was Commander Bensen's suggestion.)
5. Request that Long Beach police intervene with drivers who are double parking around the school.
6. Request that Long Beach police intervene with drivers who are speeding and who fail to stop at stop signs as they are endangering the lives of others.
7. Request mitigation efforts to slow traffic on Temple (north and south), 3rd Street (east and west) and Junipero. (Speed humps, traffic circles, etc.)

Please take a few minutes to write or call the following city officials to prioritize our concerns. If emailing, please copy all 5 of them as well as myself at [donnarsievers@yahoo.com](mailto:donnarsievers@yahoo.com).

1. Eric Lopez - Director of Public Works (562) 570-5690; [eric.lopez@longbeach.gov](mailto:eric.lopez@longbeach.gov)
2. Paul Van Dyke - Interim Traffic Engineer (562) 570-6322; [paul.vandyke@longbeach.gov](mailto:paul.vandyke@longbeach.gov)
3. Joy Contreras - Community Relations Officer (562) 570-6739; [joy.contreras@longbeach.gov](mailto:joy.contreras@longbeach.gov)

4. Long Beach Police Department East Division Commander (562) 570-5880; [lbpeast@longbeach.gov](mailto:lbpeast@longbeach.gov)
5. Cindy Allen, City Council Representative for Bluff Heights; [district2@longbeach.gov](mailto:district2@longbeach.gov)

**Here are some suggestions for comments you may want to consider:**

1. We were told by the former traffic engineer that our crosswalks and other safety measures would be evaluated prior to school starting in September 2022. Nothing has been accomplished yet. (We understand that he passed away and are so sorry for this loss.)
2. As a parent, I am concerned for the safety of children as crosswalks are either faded or non-existent.
3. Traffic on 3rd Street and Redondo has increased since the 7-Eleven and Popeyes businesses opened and cars speed in the neighborhood throughout the day.
4. I have no safe place to park to take my preschool or kindergarten child to school or to safely pick them up.
5. Double-parking around the school has increased and I cannot safely drop my child off or pick them up (or safely drive down the street). Often drivers leave their cars unattended, which makes it unsafe for other drivers who drive to go around the double parked car.
6. I attended the recent Martin Luther King Day at Horace Mann and parents expressed that traffic issues were their number one concern regarding safety.
7. We need the city to follow through with their prior commitment and focus on Horace Mann as promised last summer.

Feel free to re-word, edit, or add your own concerns. **I have expressed my concerns but until the city officials hear from more residents, I am not sure if things will change.** Please email or call the city officials and LB Police using the above-mentioned contacts. **Let's make our voices heard in the month of March.**

**Let's generate a huge number of emails or phone calls to the above listed officials. Talk to your neighbors and friends...let's aim for 100 messages from Bluff Heights! Do we really want to make a change? Otherwise, we will continue to complain with no one listening or acting on our legitimate concerns.**

Many thanks to all of you.

*Donna Sievers is a Board Member of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition (LAAHNC). She was raised in Long Beach and taught at Stanford Junior High, Bolsa Grande High, Pacifica High, and CSULB before leaving the classroom for administrator duties in Garden Grove USD. She and her husband live in Bluff Heights, where their retirement activities include volunteering for the Joyful Child Foundation in Memory of Samantha Rynnion, gardening at the Bembridge House, bike riding, walking to the ocean, and maintaining a 107-year-old house and garden.*