



## CITY OF WAUWATOSA

7725 WEST NORTH AVENUE

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### TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING Tuesday, October 19, 2004

PRESENT: Alds. Becker, Herzog, McCarthy -3

EXCUSED: Alds. Krol, Maher

ALSO

PRESENT: W. Kappel, Dir. of Public Works; Alds. Sullivan, Stepaniak

Ald. Becker as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

#### **Request for Four-Way Stop at N. 62nd and W. Clarke Streets**

The Director of Public Works forwarded a request from Ald. Stepaniak on behalf of a 5th District resident for consideration of a four-way stop at N. 62nd and W. Clarke Streets where there currently are stop signs only for east-west traffic.

Mr. Kappel reported that the police department has not recorded any crashes at this intersection, but there were two property-damage-only reports in the 2600 block of N. 62nd Street in 2002 and one hit-and-run property damage report in the 2500 block in 2003. The primary complaint here is high traffic volumes and high speeds by people using 62nd Street to avoid the intersection of Lisbon, Center and 60th. By the standards of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, there would have to be an average of 300 cars per hour during an 8-hour period in order to warrant a four-way stop. While traffic on 62nd Street may reach that number during the rush hour, it does not have that volume for 8 consecutive hours. Another major standard for four-way stops is five crashes within a 12-month period. This intersection, therefore, does not meet the standards for a four-way stop.

Ald. Sullivan supported the request and said this has been an ongoing issue for at least the past five years. He mentioned the proximity of Center Street Park two blocks away, which generates much pedestrian traffic. Ald. Stepaniak said he has probably received about three communications over the last couple of years relating to this intersection, and he requested consideration of the request.

The following residents supported the request: John Arndt, 2647 N. 62nd Street; Bernie Rindfleisch, 2566 N. 62nd Street; Robert Marquis, 2640 N. 62nd Street; Colleen Jirik, 2613 N. 62nd Street; Jenae Carter, 2600 N. 62nd Street; and Rick Lyon, 2618 N. 62nd Street. They spoke of the number of young children in this area and their concerns about speeding cars using the street as a shortcut. There was interest in blocking off the street similar to Watson Street at Wauwatosa Avenue, although the Chair mentioned budgetary limitations in accomplishing that. There were also suggestions to reinstate parking on both sides of the street with the thought that traffic would then be forced to slow down. Residents felt that there is much more traffic on 62nd Street than on 61st or 63rd Streets, and speeds were estimated at up to 55 mph.

In response to questions from Ald. Herzog, Mr. Kappel said that the City of Milwaukee borders this area, actually encroaching south of Center Street for about 120-150 feet. If barricaded, it would be difficult to provide sufficient turning radius for emergency vehicles without acquiring property. He was uncertain of the history of parking prohibitions on one side of the street in this area. He confirmed that there is no sight distance problem at this intersection.

Ald. Herzog said that parking on both sides of the street should be considered if there is sufficient width. He also suggested use of the speed monitoring trailer to determine the amount of traffic and average speeds. He reported that when stop signs were installed near his former home, he found that they do not control speeds. Drivers stopped or rolled through the intersection and then sped up to get to the next intersection, so traffic became louder and faster. He felt that a four-way stop would not reduce or slow traffic.

Ald. McCarthy agreed that the speed trailer or perhaps unmarked squad cars should first be used here. Ald. Stepaniak said that the speed trailer has been placed on 62nd Street in connection with another issue a few blocks away from this intersection. There were not a great number exceeding the speed limit, and the volume was pretty insufficient at that time.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Herzog to hold this matter for one month and direct the police department to place the speed monitoring trailer on 62nd Street for a period covering 4 days in 2 different weeks and also to monitor the street with unmarked squad cars whenever possible –

Mr. Kappel indicated that he will check the pavement width to determine if there would be sufficient passage for emergency vehicles with parking on both sides.

Vote on the motion, Ayes: 3

### **Report on 90-Day Trial of Two Hour Parking on N. 115th Street**

Mr. Kappel reported that there were no complaints in connection with the 90-day trial of two-hour parking restrictions on N. 115th Street from the alley north of W. North Avenue to the north lot line of 2320 N. 115th Street.

Moved by Ald. McCarthy, seconded by Ald. Herzog to recommend to Council introduction of an ordinance to permanently implement the change. Ayes: 3

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk  
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

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