

City of Merced

RQ#: 24-38

Citizen Action Request Form: Traffic Committee

Contact Person: Loretta Kennedy Day Phone: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Today's Date: 05/27/2024

Location of Concern (map attachments and photographs are encouraged):

Northwood Dr between M & R Streets

Describe Concerns At This Location:

Mayor Serratto, Councilwoman Boyle, City Manager McBride & Chief Stanfield and Traffic Committee,

First of all, I would like to thank you and your staff and employees of Merced for your service to our community. Your hard work is very much appreciated. I understand how challenging it is balancing all the priorities and needs of the City.

With that being said, unfortunately my neighbors and I have another priority to add to your list. I live in the cul-de-sac at 2933 Crestwood Ct, Merced, CA 95348. The cross street is Northwood Drive which is the concern I am bringing to your attention.

With this being Memorial Day weekend, I wanted to highlight the fact, if you didn't already know, that Northwood Drive between M & R Streets used to be known as Officers' Row because so many Castle Air Force Officers and their families lived on the street and the adjoining cul-de-sacs. Many of these highly decorated veterans and their spouses still live in this neighborhood and are in their 80s and 90s. I have walked with them and we've almost been hit numerous times, every single time. Our veterans and their spouses have been forced to stop walking because of the speeding traffic that has significantly increased by those using Northwood as a thoroughway between M & R Streets, or more accurately, as a FREEWAY to avoid the lights at Olive and Bear Creek.

Our honored military veterans and families who risked their lives to fight overseas and defend our country and our rights, have lost the right to enjoy and walk safely in their own neighborhood in the United States of America. I don't think I need to point out the irony of this situation more clearly to you.

But even more importantly, there are two bus stops on Northwood. And I also must point out that Northwood is a curving street with many blind spots. My neighbors and I have witnessed on numerous times, drivers speeding past stopped buses as our children were getting on and off the buses. The poor bus drivers have tried to get the license plates but often the cars speed by too quickly.

And even more importantly, warm weather is upon us and so is summer. Children are now riding their bikes in the neighborhood. To express my fear over these children's safety, I will say this. Several cats and dogs have been killed on Northwood Drive every year since I've lived here. I fear it's only a matter of time before a child is killed or an elderly veteran is killed or a mother crossing the street with her children in tow are killed.

As I said, I know you and the City have a lot on your plate. But it is imperative that speed bumps are installed on Northwood Drive as soon as possible to prevent these senseless and tragic deaths. In the meantime, if you could please have the City put a radar on our street right away, hopefully this will curtail these drivers until the speed bumps can be installed.

Time is of the essence. You have the opportunity to save lives here and to honor our veterans and their families for their service. I thank you for your immediate attention to this urgent matter. Please feel free to contact me via email or at the phone number below.

With gratitude,

Loretta Kennedy and the neighborhood of Northwood Drive / Officers' Row

For Official Use Only:

Project #: _____ Date Received: _____ Date Field Inspected: _____

Field Inspection Results: _____

Date Response To Contact Person: _____

Resolution of Concern: _____

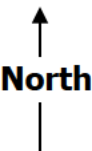
Date Completed: _____

Traffic Engineer's Signature or Designee

Date

DIAGRAMS

General Diagram



Location of Concern

