

Subject: Winmore Daycare
From: gvanberg@gmail.com
To: Mark_Chilton@hotmail.com

Dear Mayor Chilton,

I live in the Claremont neighborhood (My wife, two-year old, and I live on S. Camellia). I am writing with respect to the discussion of the proposed Winmore daycare at tomorrow's board meeting. We are fully supportive of this daycare, but I was concerned to hear that there is a proposal to prohibit a left turn from Winmore Ave onto Homestead during peak day-care hours. I see from the documentation for tomorrow's meeting that this proposal appears to be endorsed by the traffic study done last week. I fully understand that there are traffic issues that need to be addressed. But I am afraid that this proposal will create an even worse problem. If you look at the surrounding neighborhood streets, I think you will agree that the likely consequence of prohibiting this turn will not be that people will make a right turn out of Winmore onto Homestead. Instead, they are likely to take the back way through Winmore and Claremont along Jewel Dr. and S. Camellia Street in order to make a left turn onto Homestead from Claremont.

In practice, this means that instead of passing through an access road (Winmore Ave) with no residences along its path to Homestead Rd., traffic would be re-directed to pass by dozens of houses in Winmore and Claremont on its way to Homestead. Our neighborhood is full of small children -- in the houses surrounding ours, I can count 13 children below the age of six. Aside from the obvious traffic nuisance of 100+ cars passing through a neighborhood twice a day, such traffic would pose a major safety concern for our children.

Forcing traffic through residential neighborhoods instead of along an unoccupied access road does not seem to make much sense -- especially when there are ready alternatives available. One would be to require the daycare to provide a traffic cop during peak hours to direct traffic; this is done by plenty of other schools in the area. Alternatively, the town could consider installing a light at Winmore and Homestead -- something that might not be a bad idea in light of the new fire station anyway.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this email. I realize that there are difficult decisions to be made, but it appears to me that this proposal is based on a narrow traffic study, limited to the Homestead/Winmore intersection instead of a study that takes into account the broader impact of traffic on surrounding residential areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns -- we would be happy to have you come and take a look at the neighborhood and traffic patterns yourself.

Sincerely,

Georg Vanberg