

1011 16th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
December 18, 2005

Mayor & Council members: Peter Tucker, Michael Keegan, J. R. Revicsky, Sam Edgerton
Steve Burrell, City Manager
1315 Valley Drive
Hermosa Beach, California, 90254

Gentlemen,

Your council meeting discussion December 13, 2005 of the communications submitted by Patricia Egerer regarding the signalization of PCH and 16th Street appeared to demonstrate a misunderstanding and cavalier attitude toward the issue. More importantly, missing from the council packet were a letter and petition signed by over 27 residents who are parents of 25 children who live on 16th Street. This represents over 90% of the residents on 16th between PCH and Prospect who have front doors and/or driveways facing 16th. This letter and petition are independent of Ms. Egerer's efforts but no less important and were submitted to Rick Morgan November 28 who passed them on to Steve Burrell. For some reason these documents failed to be presented to council. Foremost in Council's rejection of Ms. Egerer's reasoned letter was the belief that the residents of 16th Street had been properly informed by the city of the impact a traffic light would have on 16th Street. This is blatantly untrue. Whereas the city has pursued the development of Hermosa Pavilion with residents' tacit approval, at no time did the residents foresee that our street was about to be turned into a major thoroughfare for Hermosa Beach. Nor did the City make us aware of it or ask our consent. This has the appearance of wanton disregard of the safety issues regarding the 25 children who live on 16th as well as the countless kids who will be walking on 16th as they travel between View and Valley schools when the traffic light is installed.

Simply stated, our street is too narrow. There are no or limited sidewalks. Pedestrians have to walk around parked cars and in the street. Because of the steep incline, drivers accelerate to climb the hill; many do not decelerate once they crest the hill and often reach speeds in excess of 40 mph. Many times when vehicles are parked at the side of the street, traffic must pull over to let opposing traffic pass because of the narrow street. Because of the steep topography and the speed of vehicles, residents pulling out of driveways do not see the vehicles until they are almost colliding into them. All these problems will be dangerously exasperated with the drastic increase in traffic. All these facts are discussed in the letter submitted to Morgan and Burrell.

Bottom line, the city is putting its citizens and itself at great risk. Considerable culpability will have to be placed on the city should you proceed without proper consideration and studies by an independent traffic engineer. WE are not arguing against the installation of a

traffic light. We are protesting the impact of said traffic light on 16th Street. To address these safety issues, we have petitioned you to close off 16th Street. A barricade can be placed about 50 feet east of PCH, thus allowing the veterinary hospital to have access to its lower parking lot with two entrances, one each from PCH and 16th, but successfully prohibiting traffic from proceeding east and uphill. Precedent for a street blockade has been set at 14th as well as numerous streets in Hermosa that connect with PCH. WE are not asking to change the nature of 16th Street. The City is seeking to do that in a very unsafe and reckless manner. Any reasonable person would see the flaws in making 16th Street a thoroughfare if all the issues are properly and fairly presented. To not seek to hear and understand all the safety issues exhibits a callousness and carelessness and exposes the city to considerable liability. Furthermore, to say that all residents were properly notified of the impact of a traffic light when the pavilion project was presented is like saying all passengers knew what to expect when they bought a ticket on the Titanic.

You can develop the PCH corridor but when that development intrudes into the residential area, you have violated your civic responsibilities to the residents of Hermosa Beach. You already have a very dangerous situation when patrons of the Pavilion park on the crowded and busy PCH and illegally cross the street. Don't compound that danger by making 16th Street a thoroughfare. Read the letter to Rick Morgan. Check the petition signed by reasonable and knowledgeable residents of Hermosa Beach. Schedule this matter for proper study and discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lee H. Grant
(Rick Morgan letter attached)

FILE

**CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH
MEMORANDUM**


DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2005

TO: MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

FROM: STEPHEN BURRELL, CITY MANAGER

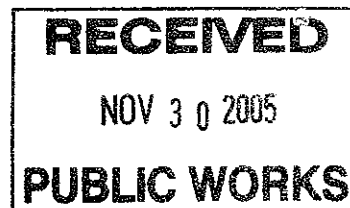


SUBJECT: TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AND 16TH STREET –
INFORMATION ITEM



I have attached a petition received in the Public Works Department regarding the traffic signal that is waiting for the final permit from CalTrans before it is installed by the Pavilion owners, Shook Development Company.

1011 16th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
November 28, 2005



Mr. Rick Morgan
Department of Public Works
City of Hermosa Beach

Dear Mr. Morgan,

We are contacting you regarding the installation of traffic signals at Pacific Coast Highway and 16th Street. Whereas traffic signals may serve the developer of Hermosa Pavilion desire to aid ingress and egress from his facility, we believe The City of Hermosa Beach has not considered the impact traffic lights will have on 16th street east of PCH. We are not necessarily against the traffic lights on PCH but we are against the impact the traffic lights will have on 16th Street.

Enclosed is a petition signed by over 27 adult residents who are parents to over 25 children, most of which are younger than age 12, and live on 16th Street. The residents believe the dramatic increase of traffic on 16th when the traffic lights are operable will prove to be disastrously unsafe for 16th Street residents as well as drivers and pedestrians using 16th street. This petition represents over 90% of the residents on 16th Street between PCH and Prospect who have front doors and/or garage doors facing 16th. The remaining approximate 10 % have not signed because they have not been available to sign or agree with the safety issues listed but are not sure of the solution.

As residents, we are not asking to change the nature of 16th Street. We want to keep it the same. However, traffic lights critically and detrimentally change the nature of the street and fly in the face of the city's street smart walk smart campaign. In addition an improperly implemented plan for the street lights exposes the city to severe liability for any accidents or deaths caused by increased traffic because the city has decided to make a narrow street into a major thoroughfare with limited or no sidewalks, difficult topography and no proper traffic engineering studies.

NO survey or known study has been conducted by the city regarding the traffic signals' impact on 16th street. Residents were not formally notified of the intention to install traffic lights but rather we gleaned the information haphazardly through local media. Although you and others in the city have said the city has done studies on the need or

ramifications of traffic lights, no one on 16th Street has seen these studies nor do we think said studies even apply to 16th Street.

- * When has the city studied the current traffic flow patterns on 16th to compare with the new traffic flow when the lights are operable?
- * Why does the city think it is safe to allow 16th Street to become a new thoroughfare when a vehicle is parked on the side of 16th and two opposing cars must stop to let one or the other car pass because the street is too narrow?
- * Why does the city think it is safe to let a street with no or limited sidewalks to become a main thoroughfare especially with over 20 kids living on the street and dozens more Valley students about to walk on 16th once the street lights are installed?
- * Why does the city think it is safe to let a street with a speeding problem become a main thoroughfare? Many autos climbing the steep grade do not decelerate when they crest the hilltop but continue accelerating on the flat often reaching 40 mph or more.
- * Why does the city think a street with difficult topography and restricted views believe it is safe to become a main thoroughfare?
- * Why does the city think it is safe to enable large delivery trucks to travel on 16th between Vons and Prospect Avenue? This will become the new, easy, direct route of such trucks.
- * These problems exist and will not get better with more traffic. And please do not think that these problems are exaggerated or do not exist. Come and spend a day on the street or better yet, speak with the residents who have signed the petition.

Why do we think 16th Street will become a major thoroughfare? Simple. Most drivers leaving or going to the 24 hour Vons Shopping Center or the new 24 Hour Fitness Pavilion and traveling east of PCH will now have a new shortcut. 16th Street will become a shortcut because if you or I or anyone else leaving Vons or the fitness club and traveling east of PCH, would we exit on Pier Avenue, turn left or right on PCH and then left on Aviation or right on 21st or Artesia? Or would you or I take a straight shot up 16th to Prospect? In fact, would not someone who is taking a student to Hermosa View and who lived west of PCH, consider turning on to Ardmore and then on to 16th and then take a straight shot across PCH up 16th to Prospect? Human nature says take the shortest, fastest route. And we both know how trafficked the intersection of Pier and PCH is; 16th Street and PCH would now offer an alternative to the detriment of 16th Street.

If the city desires to install traffic lights at 16th and PCH, then the solution to 16th Street's issues would be to block off 16th Street to through traffic. Not an ideal solution but a good one. And precedent has been set at 14th Street and PCH as well as 8th and 2nd streets probably for many of the same reasons we have listed here. We would not be forcing more traffic on to 17th Street than already exists, especially if the blockade is placed on

16th west of Raymond. As mentioned earlier, we are not asking to change the nature of 16th Street. The city is attempting to do that. However, the city has the civic duty and responsibility to the public's safety to thoroughly study and implement infrastructure changes. Surely Cal Trans is interested in following proper procedures for any plan that involves their agency. In fact, it is surprising that Cal Trans is comfortable with the placement of the traffic light poles in a sidewalk that would not be wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair or baby stroller.

The Pavilion development has dramatically impacted the parking on PCH and the surrounding areas including 16th Street. As increased street parking has demonstrated, the development is being used and will be used even more as the other businesses open. It would appear that the city failed to foresee the impact this patronage and parking would have on the area. Now PCH is dangerously dense with parked vehicles and pedestrians crossing PCH in an unsafe and illegal manner. Where PCH used to have 6 lanes of traffic most of the day, the number of lanes has been reduced due to parked vehicles. The base of 16th street now has many more cars parked at the side, making turns onto 16th from PCH very difficult and dangerous due to the narrowing of the road. Increased parking means increased traffic and this traffic should not be funneled along 16th Street. That would be irresponsible and demonstrate a total disregard for the safety of residents on 16th Street as well as drivers and pedestrians. 16th Street should be blocked off. We are contacting you now so that appropriate arrangements for traffic light configurations can be made with minimal expense and bureaucratic entanglements. Please contact me and the other residents on 16th Street as to how the city plans to deal with these safety issues. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Grant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Lee H. Grant

PETITION TO CLOSE 16TH STREET
(please read attached letter)

- | | NAME
(Please print and sign) | ADDRESS | IF CHILDREN, AGES |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Lee H. GRANT <i>Lee H. Grant</i> | 1011 16 th St. | 2 Kids, 14 & 12 |
| | <i>Deirdre GRANT Deirdre D. Grant</i> | | |
| 2. | <i>Willy Hipwell Durand</i> <i>Willy Hipwell Durand</i> | 1019 16 th St. | 1 child, age 3 yrs. |
| | <i>Greg Sampson</i> <i>Greg Sampson</i> | 949 16 th Street | 2 kids 1 & 2 |
| | <i>Molly Sampson</i> <i>Molly Sampson</i> | | |
| 4. | Steve Silver | 957 16 th St. | 14 & 17 + 12 + 7 |
| | <i>Melinda B Brown</i> | 939 16 th | |
| | MELINDA B BROWN | 310 374-0248 | |
| 6. | <i>Alan Thomen</i> | 909 16 th St | 310) 714-1847 |
| | ALAN THOMEN | | |
| 7. | Rosalind Bender | 909-16TH ST. | (310) 714-1847 |
| | BOSALIND BENDER | | |
| 8. | <i>Jay Clemon</i> | 901 16 th St | (310) 379-1435 |
| | JAY D CLEMONS | | |
| 9. | <i>Allan Fineman</i> | 945 16 th St | 310 376 0875 |
| | ALLAN FINEMAN | 2 Kids; 1 + 3 yrs | |
| 10. | <i>Sandra Factor Fineman</i> | 945 16 th Street | 310 714-1818 |
| | SANDRA FACTOR FINEMAN | | |
| | | 2 kids → ages: 1yr. and 3 yrs. | |

PETITION TO CLOSE 16TH STREET
(please read attached letter)

	NAME (Please print and sign)	ADDRESS	IF CHILDREN, AGES
11.	Susan Collector	919 15 th Place	21-Rachel 14-Callie
	Susan Collector	Hennosa Bch	19-Samantha
12.	M. A. Stanley	905 15 th PLACE STANLEY GUSTAFSON	6 - SARA 3 - BRIANA
	Matthew Gustafson	905 15 th PLACE	" "
13.	DOUG VIKER	963 15 th Place	Jessica - 10 yrs Cory 6 yrs
	Sara Viker	963 15th Place	
14.	Jeri Viker	963 15 th Place	Jessica 10 yrs Cory 6 yrs
15.	Denis O'Reilly	1005 16 th St	
	Denis O'Reilly		
16.	JEANNE OZENNE	1005 16 th St.	Christopher 20 yrs
	Jeanne Ozanne		
17.	Jessica Gray	921 16 th St.	
	Jessica Gray		
18.	KEVIN PAGE	921 16 th ST	
	Kevin Page		
19.	GISA BRANNAN	1610 Raymond Ave	Lucas 7 yrs.
	Nan Brannan	" " "	
20.	DESMOND (BUD) MURRAY	838 - 16 th ST H.B.	
	D.B. Bud Murray		

PETITION TO CLOSE 16TH STREET
(please read attached letter)

NAME (Please print and sign)	ADDRESS	IF CHILDREN, AGES
21. JILLICE A MURPHY	838-1 COR 9 TH 14 TH B.	
<i>Jillice A Murphy</i>		
22. DAVID AND CAROL ADLER	943 15 TH PLACE, A.B.C.H.	5+2
<i>David & Carol Adler</i>		
23. PHYLLIS HALPIN	1005 15 TH PLACE.	
<i>Phyllis Halpin</i>		
24. GILLY ERK RILEY	929 16 TH ST HB	
2 kids - 2 1/2 + 7 mos.		
25. WITT MY ELIZABETH RILEY		
2 kids - 2 1/2 + 7 mo		
26. Mark Hauke	977 15 TH Place	
<i>Mark Hauke</i>		
27. Seck Charlson	1601 Raymond Ave Hermosa Beach	
<i>Seck Charlson</i>		
28. Mark Walker	927 16 TH ST.	1 boy, 4 yrs old
<i>Mark Walker</i>		
29.		
30.		

1011 16th Street
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
October 11, 2005

Dear Neighbors,

Sixteenth Street is about to become a major thoroughfare for Hermosa Beach.

Traffic lights will be installed very soon at PCH and 16th Street. While this initially might appear to be a convenient idea, it has ramifications for residents on 16th Street and the surrounding area. Most drivers leaving or going to the 24 hour Vons Shopping Center or the new 24 Hour Fitness Pavilion and traveling to or from any place east of PCH will now have a new short cut. Why will 16th street be a short cut? Think about it. If you were leaving Vons or the fitness club and traveling east of PCH, would you exit on Pier Avenue, turn left or right on PCH and then left or right Aviation, 21st Street, or Artesia? Or would you take a straight shot up 16th to Prospect? In fact, if you were taking a student to Hermosa View School and you lived west of PCH, you might even turn up 16th from Ardmore and again travel straight up 16th to Prospect. The traffic on 16th Street will increase dramatically 24 hours a day.

There are major safety issues to consider!

- 1) 16th Street is narrow. Currently, when a vehicle is parked on the street, two large opposing cars or SUVs must stop and wait for one to pass before the other car can proceed. This is a safety issue.
- 2) Our street has a speeding problem. Because the bottom of 16th is at a steep incline, drivers accelerate to climb the hill but they do not decelerate when they crest the hill, often traveling at speeds exceeding 40 miles an hour on the flat section of 16th. This is a safety issue.
- 3) Because 16th Street has a steep incline and vehicle parking on the street, cars traveling on 16th are often unseen by drivers backing out of their driveways until the vehicles almost collide. With the increased traffic flow and often excessive speed, the chance of an accident increases. This is a safety issue.
- 4) If you doubt the possible increase in traffic on our street, just look at the dramatic and unsafe increase in parking on PCH near the 24 Hour Fitness. And this parking is in spite of the parking provided by the Fitness Center. It is already difficult to make a right turn on to our narrow street from PCH but now with the increased street parking and soon to be increased traffic flow, the potential for an accident once again increases dramatically. This is a safety issue.

****5) And most importantly, there are many families with small children who live on 16th Street, a street with very limited sidewalks, limited pedestrian visibility, and excessive speed. This is a safety issue!**

While Hermosa City Public Works and the developer of the 24 Hour Fitness complex who is paying for the traffic lights are thinking about the safety of the drivers and pedestrians on PCH, they have failed to consider the safety of the residents and drivers on 16th Street.

So what can we do? First, the reality – I have been told by Public Works the traffic lights are going to be installed. Cal Trans has signed off on it. Public Works has Okayed it, and the developer has paid for it. What are our options? You may have some ideas which we as residents should all discuss. My thought is that unfortunately, we should ask for 16th Street to be closed to thru traffic. This was done on 14th Street east of Pier Avenue. Several other streets south of Aviation have also been partially blocked off. A precedent has been set and probably for the same reasons I've stated. The City of Hermosa Beach has failed to consider the impact of traffic lights on 16th Street. **WE** need to let them know. Please sign the following petition stating your endorsement of the closing 16th Street to thru traffic. Or contact me via email at Appomattox65@msn.com or 310-372-1123 to express your ideas regarding this issue. Closing 16th may be an inconvenience to us but for the safety of our families and before a serious accident or injury occurs, it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,



Lee and Deirdre Grant

1011 16th Street

Parents of 14 and 12 year old children.