



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Hans F. Larsen  
Robert L. Davis

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 07-26-10

Approved

Date

8/5/10

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 1  
**SNI AREA:** NA

**SUBJECT: APPEAL OF THE TRAFFIC APPEALS COMMISSION DENIAL OF STOP SIGN INSTALLATION AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF VALLEJO DRIVE AND COLOMBO DRIVE, AND VALLEJO DRIVE AND LATIMER AVENUE**

## RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing pursuant to Section 11.18.060 of the San José Municipal Code and adopt a resolution to affirm the decision of the Traffic Appeals Commission to uphold the Director of Transportation denial of the request for installation of all-way stop signs at the two intersections of Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive, and Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue located in the City of San José.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff received a request from the Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association (Association) for installation of all-way stop signs at two intersections in the City. In accordance with Council Policy 8-1, *Criteria for the Installation of Stop Signs*, and Chapter 11.18 of the San José Municipal Code, staff conducted stop sign studies of the two intersections and determined that both intersections failed to receive the minimum 20 points required under Council Policy 8-1 for installation of all-way stop signs. The intersection of Vallejo Drive and Colombo received a score of only 3 out of a minimum of 20 points, and the intersection of Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue received a score of 4 out of a minimum 20 points. Based on the studies and review of other relevant information, staff denied the request for installation of additional stop signs and the decision was upheld by the Traffic Appeals Commission (TAC). The Association is now appealing TAC's decision to Council.

## BACKGROUND

San José Municipal Code (SJMC) Chapter 11.18 authorizes the Director of Transportation (Director) to conduct studies to determine if stop signs should be installed or removed at any

07-26-10

**Subject: Appeal of Denial of Stop Sign Installation**

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particular location within the City, and to direct that a stop sign be installed or removed when the Director determines that the stop sign is warranted or is no longer warranted. SJMC Chapter 11.18 also contains provisions for an individual to appeal the Director's determination regarding the installation or removal of a stop sign to the Traffic Appeals Commission (TAC), and includes provisions for an individual to appeal the TAC's decision to the City Council.

The TAC consists of seven (7) San José residents appointed by the City Council to serve as an advisory body to the City Manager and Council regarding traffic in residential neighborhoods. The TAC conducts hearings and issues decisions to the Director with regards to the installation of stop signs. In making their decision, the TAC reviews a report prepared by DOT staff, including the results of the stop study, and takes testimony from interested parties.

In November 2008, the Department of Transportation (DOT) received a verbal request from the Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association to add all-way stop signs at Colombo Drive and Vallejo Drive; and at Latimer Avenue and Vallejo Drive. Currently, both intersections have two-way stop control, with stop signs installed on Vallejo Drive for the eastbound and westbound approaches to Colombo Drive and Latimer Avenue. Pictures of the intersections are attached to this memorandum as Attachment 1. In the Spring of 2009, DOT performed stop sign studies (Attachment 2) in accordance with Council Policy 8-1. Based upon the criteria outlined in this policy, both intersections did not meet the minimum points set forth in the policy to support the installation of additional stop signs.

On June 22, 2009, DOT sent a letter (Attachment 3) to John Knudson informing him of the results of the studies. The letter included information about the actions that would be taken to address the neighborhood's concern about the speed of vehicles and to enhance pedestrian safety at both intersections. The letter also outlined the process for appealing the stop sign installation to the Traffic Appeals Commission (TAC) pursuant to SJMC Section 11.18.060.

A letter (Attachment 4) dated June 21, 2008 (sent by facsimile on August 24, 2009) was received from Jason Klawiter, president of the Association requesting a hearing before the TAC to appeal DOT's decision to deny the request for installation of all-way stop signs. The primary concerns cited in the appeal letter were the speed of vehicles and that vehicles do not yield to pedestrians at the crosswalks on Latimer Avenue and Colombo Drive.

On October 15, 2009, the TAC conducted a public hearing on the appeal of the denial of the installation of additional stop signs at both intersections. The results of the stop studies and the actions taken to address the neighborhood concerns about speeding were described in the September 15, 2009 report (Attachment 5) that DOT submitted to the TAC for the appeal hearing. The hearing was held in accordance with SJMC Section 11.18.050. All interested parties at the hearing were given the opportunity to provide evidence and be heard on the matter. Three individuals, Jason Klawiter, Andrea Miller (vice president of the Association), and Richard Hendricks spoke in support of the stop sign installation. The primary concerns cited by these individuals were the speed of traffic through the intersections, and that vehicles do not yield to pedestrians. Another resident, Karl Schricker, was not in support of additional stop

signs. Mr. Schricker did not believe they would address the speeding concern and would increase vehicle emissions. DOT staff testified and described the results of the stop studies to the TAC, and Sgt. Angel from the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) of the Police Department indicated that while pedestrians have the right-of-way at crosswalks, they also have a responsibility to make sure it is safe before crossing. After hearing all of the testimony, the TAC voted three to two in affirming the DOT decision to deny the request for all-way stop control at the Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive intersection. Additionally, the TAC voted four to one to affirm the DOT decision to deny the request for all-way stop control at the intersection of Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue. The interested parties, including representatives from the Association were present at the meeting when the TAC decisions were announced. Two TAC commissioners were absent from this hearing.

Subsequent to the TAC hearing, the neighborhood was misinformed about the ability to appeal the TAC's decision to the City Council. DOT sent a letter (Attachment 6) to Jason Klawiter on February 25, 2010 summarizing the results of the TAC hearing and providing information about the process to appeal the TAC decision in accordance with San José Municipal Code 11.18.060.

A letter dated March 8, 2008 (sent by facsimile on March 9, 2010) from Jason Klawiter, on behalf of the Association, to DOT requesting to appeal the decision of the TAC to the City Council. Another appeal mailed on March 15, 2010 was also received from Keith Knudson. The primary concerns cited by both residents were the speed of vehicles and pedestrian safety and requested to appeal the TAC decision to City Council. A copy of these letters is included to this memorandum as Attachment 7.

## ANALYSIS

### Council Policy 8-1, *Criteria for the Installation of Stop Signs*

Based upon Caltrans standards, stop signs are installed to establish right-of-way, enhance safety for all roadway users, and reduce vehicle delays. Council Policy 8-1 is based on these standards and establishes the criteria used to determine if stop signs should be considered for installation in San José. The policy was initially adopted in 1972 with various revisions occurring in subsequent years, the most recent in 2001. Through each of its revisions, Council Policy 8-1 has remained consistent with Caltrans standards for when stop signs are most appropriate.

The 2001 updates to Council Policy 8-1 resulted in greater opportunities for the installation of stop signs where high pedestrian and bicycle activities are present, where pedestrian corridors or zones have been or will be identified in the General Plan, and where multiple schools are located. The factors that must be considered and the warrant points that can be allocated for each factor are specified in Council Policy 8-1. Per the policy, a minimum of 20 points is needed to warrant installation of all-way stop control for intersections in residential neighborhood. The table below highlights the specific factors and warrant points for a four-way residential intersection:

Factor	Warrant Points
Crash history, specifically crashes that might have been prevented with the presence of stop control.	6 points for each crash
Right-of-way conflicts during a 24-hour period	1 point for every 100 conflicting movements above 400 conflicting movements. <u>Maximum of 12 points.</u>
Proximity to schools	3 points for adjacent schools, 2 points for schools within 1 block, 1 point for schools within 2 blocks. <u>Maximum of 6 points.</u>
Unusual conditions: high pedestrian and bicycle activity, evidence of crashes, unique geometric conditions, lack of visibility and speed of vehicles	<u>Maximum of 12 points.</u>

The policy provides flexibility for the City Traffic Engineer (Director of DOT) to approve the installation of stop signs if in his/her engineering judgment they are determined to be necessary and appropriate to improve traffic safety. The policy also outlines the process for appeal of the stop sign installation to the TAC.

Stop Studies

In applying Council Policy 8-1 to the request by the Association, neither intersection received the minimum amount of points required for the installation of all-way stop signs. The table below highlights the points allocated to each intersection based on the stop studies that were conducted in accordance with Council Policy 8-1.

Factor	Colombo & Vallejo	Latimer & Vallejo
Crash history	0 points	0 points
Right-of-way conflicts (24-hour)	0 points	0 points
Proximity to schools	0 points	0 points
Unusual conditions	3 points	4 points
<b>Total Warrant points</b>	<b>3 of 20 points</b>	<b>4 of 20 points</b>

Each intersection received 3 points due to its proximity to Hathaway Park. The Latimer Avenue intersection received an additional warrant point for visibility constraints due to vegetation at one corner. It is important to note that the bush that was restricting visibility has been trimmed.

Traffic Safety Measures Implemented

To address resident concerns about the speed of vehicles in the neighborhood and pedestrian safety, the following traffic safety measures were taken:

- Deployed a radar trailer on both Colombo Drive and Latimer Avenue to increase motorists' awareness of the posted speed limit;
- Upgraded the existing crosswalks sign on Colombo Drive and on Latimer Avenue to high visibility neon signs to increase motorists' awareness of potential pedestrian activity;
- Installed reflective centerline pavement markers on Latimer Avenue at Lamore Drive to channelize motorists around the curve;
- Installed red curb on the southeast corner of Latimer Avenue/Saratoga Avenue to improve ingress visibility; and
- Trimmed a bush on the southeast corner of Latimer Avenue and Vallejo Drive to improve the sight distance visibility

Currently, both intersections are controlled by two-way stop control, with stop signs installed for traffic on Vallejo Drive. Per State standards, crosswalk signs are not installed when stop signs and markings are present. It is important to note that if Council approves the installation of all-way stop control at either intersection, the existing pedestrian signage located in advance of and at the marked crosswalks that are providing notice to motorists of the presence of crosswalks, would need to be removed.

### Conclusion

As discussed above, Council Policy 8-1 is based on Caltrans standards and provides for the installation of stop signs to enhance traffic safety at an intersection by establishing appropriate right-of-way controls. Installing unwarranted stop signs can have the reverse effect by providing a false sense of security to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Unwarranted stop signs tend to be disrespected by some drivers who do not fully stop and who may even speed up between stops, and can generate additional requests for enforcement support to address these behaviors. It should be noted that both Federal and State guidelines recommend against installing stop signs for speed control.

Both the Department of Transportation and the Police Department recommend that Council affirm the decision of the TAC to deny the request for installation of all-way stop signs at the two intersections of Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive, and Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue.

### EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

If Council approves the installation of additional stop signs at Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive, and/or Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue, DOT would be responsible for the removal or modification of existing signs and markings and the installation of new signs and markings as necessary to implement the all-way stop control.

### POLICY ALTERNATIVES

*Alternative: Approve the installation of all-way stop control at Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive and/or Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue.*

**Pros:** Installation of all-way stop control provides an affirmative response to the request of the Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association.

**Cons:** Installing all-way stop control at either of these intersections could result in an unsafe condition caused by motorists who do not fully stop, and increase demands on TEU for enforcement to address failure to stop activity.

**Reason for Not Recommending:** Installation of additional stop signs at either of these intersections is not an appropriate use of these traffic control devices and is not consistent with State and Federal guidelines or Council Policy 8-1.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

- Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the Council meeting.

### **COORDINATION**

This report has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Budget Office, and the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department.

### **FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT**

Upholding the Traffic Appeals Commission decision to deny the installation of all-way stop control at either intersection will be consistent with Council Policy 8-1.

### **COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS**

Installation of new stop signs and markings and modifications to existing traffic controls, will incur a one-time cost of approximately \$3,600 for each of the intersections and would be absorbed within DOT's existing budget.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
07-26-10  
**Subject: Appeal of Denial of Stop Sign Installation**  
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**CEQA**

Exempt, PP06-171.

/s/

ROBERT L. DAVIS  
Chief of Police

/s/

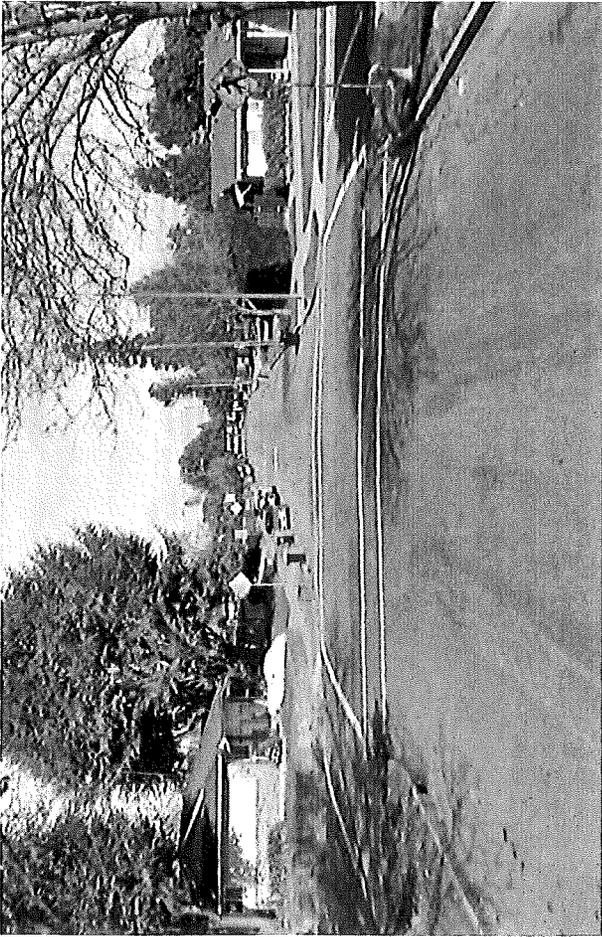
HANS F. LARSEN  
Acting Director of Transportation

For questions please contact Laura Wells, Deputy Director of Transportation at 975-3725, or Lt. Dave Honda at 277-4341.

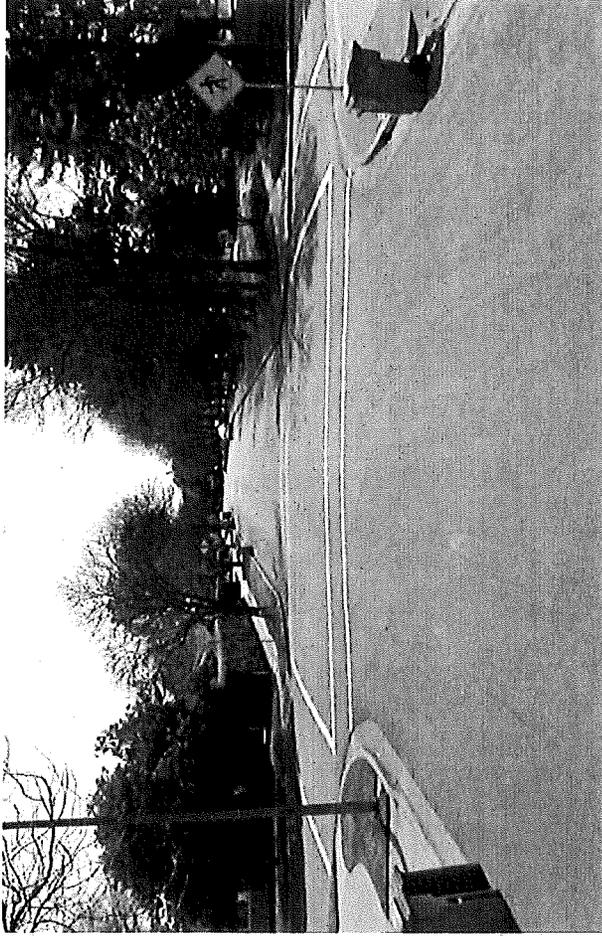
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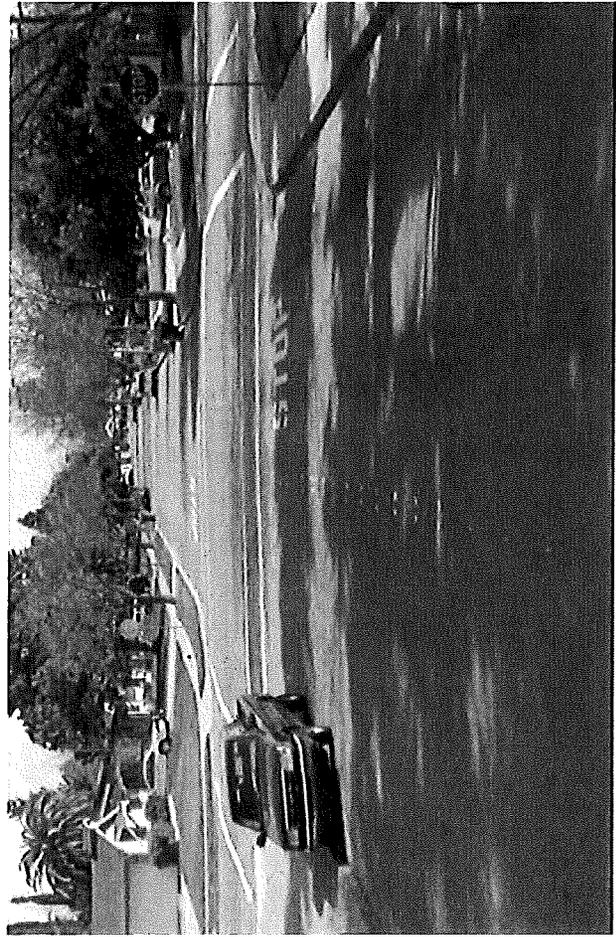
# ATTACHMENT 1



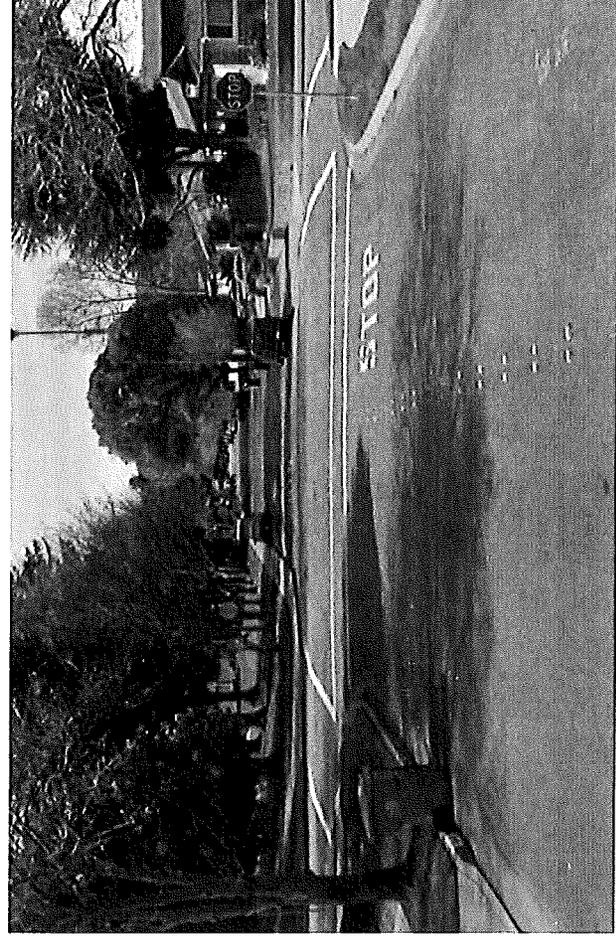
Westbound on Colombo Dr at Vallejo Dr



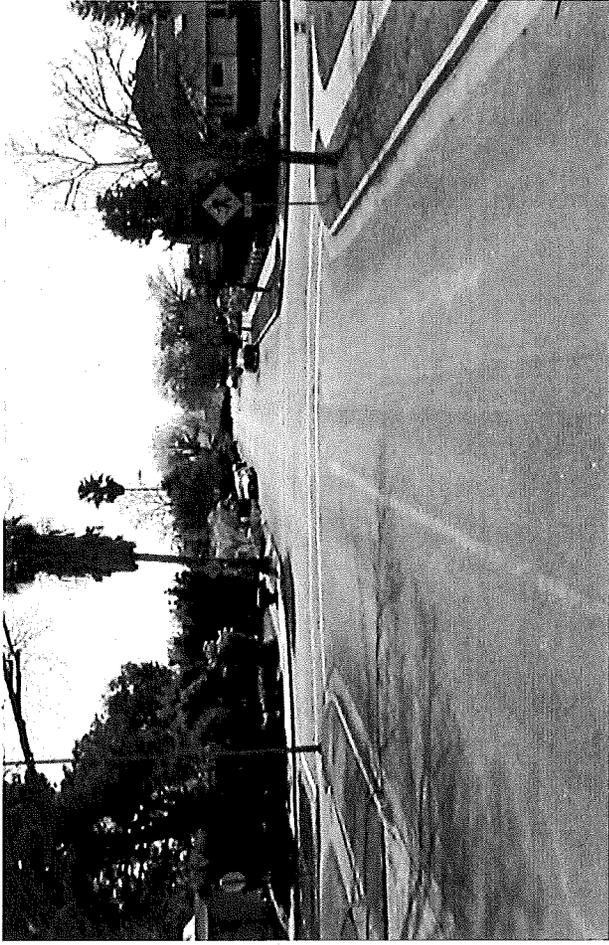
Eastbound on Colombo Dr at Vallejo Dr



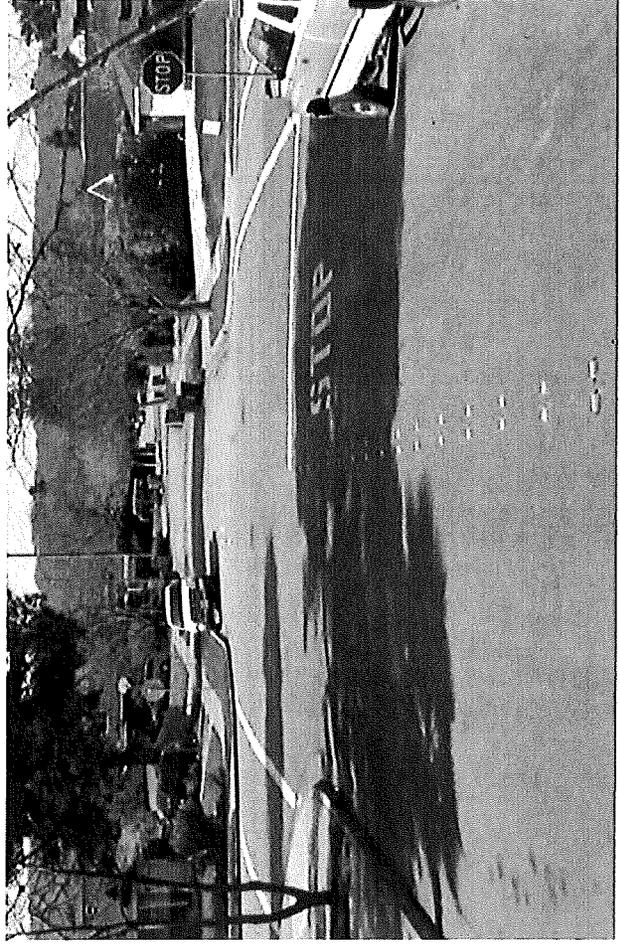
Northbound on Vallejo Dr at Colombo Dr



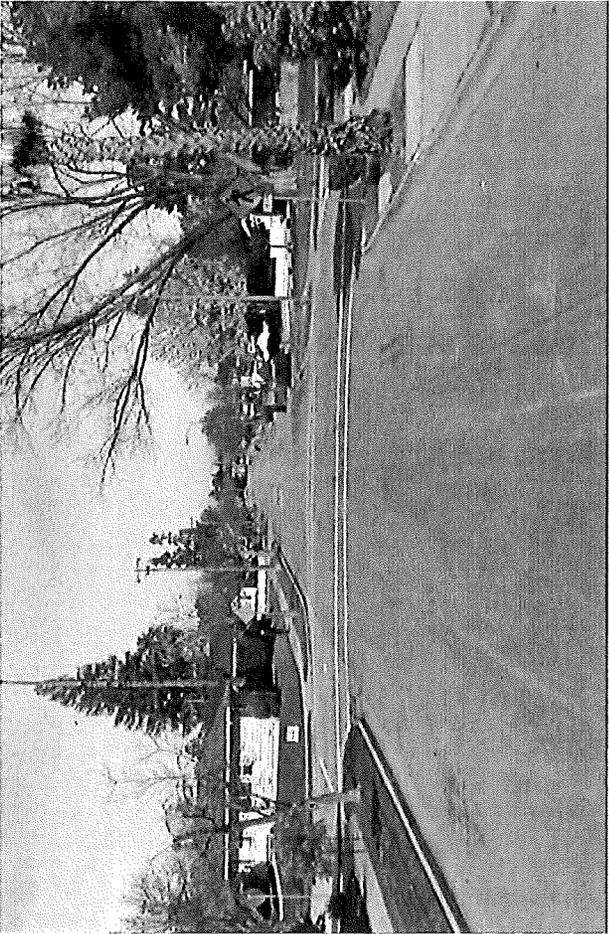
Southbound on Vallejo Dr at Colombo Dr



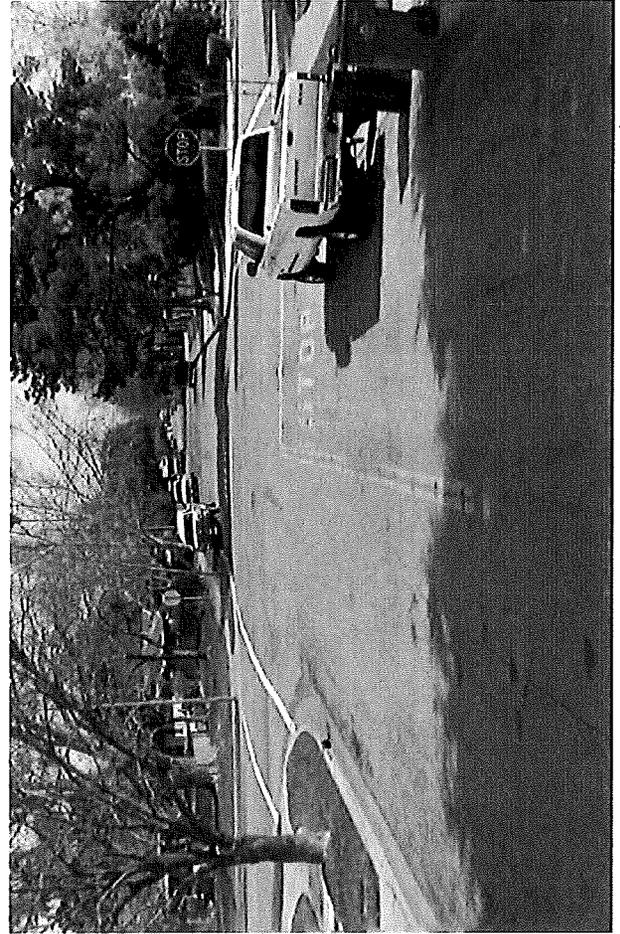
**Eastbound on Latimer Av at Vallejo Dr**



**Southbound on Vallejo Dr at Latimer Av**



**Westbound on Latimer Av at Vallejo Dr**



**Northbound on Vallejo Dr at Latimer Av**

# ATTACHMENT 2

## RESIDENTIAL STREETS ALL-WAY STOP ANALYSIS

Date: 6/05/09 Project No. 2008-316-9  
 Location: Colombo Dr @ Vallejo Dr C.D. 1

**BACKGROUND:**

Type intersection: Four-way Reason for study: Right of way concern  
 Existing controls: Two way stop on Vallejo Dr  
 Previous studies: 4/05/77, 2/23/83, 8/24/89, 6/06/96, 9/24/97, 3/13/03, 12/06/07

**INITIAL QUALIFICATIONS: (All must be satisfied)**

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Both streets must have residential frontage   | Satisfied<br><u>YES</u> |
| 2. Neither street can be a designated thoroughfare street or a street on the general plan. | <u>YES</u>              |
| 3. Neither street can have an average daily traffic volume exceeding 6000.                 | <u>YES</u>              |

**WARRANTS: (A total of 20 points needed)** POINTS

1. Accidents: (6 points per correctable accident for any 12 month period within the last 2 years)... 0

	Study Period	Intersection Accidents	Correctable
12 months			
24 months	<u>5/30/07 - 5/30/09</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
12 month correctable date(s)			

2. Volume: (12 points maximum) ..... 0

One point for every 100 conflicting movement per day in excess of first 400 conflicting movements for a four-way intersection. One point for every 100 conflicting movement per day in excess of first 300 conflicting movements for a three-way intersection.

Major street: Colombo Dr Volume: 1300  
 Minor street: Vallejo Dr Volume: 270

3. School: (6 points maximum)..... 0

INTERSECTION	SCHOOL 1	SCHOOL 2	SCHOOL 3
Adjacent	3 points	3 points	3 points
One Block	2 points	2 points	2 points
Two Block	1 point	1 point	1 point

4. Unusual condition: (12 points maximum)..... 3  
 High pedestrian activity due to proximity to Hathaway Park 3pts

**TOTAL POINTS:** 3

Warranted:

Unwarranted:

Comments:

If warranted, were the residents on all corners of the intersection contacted?

Northwest: \_\_\_\_\_ Northeast: \_\_\_\_\_ Southwest: \_\_\_\_\_ Southeast: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Lily Lim-Tsao, P.E., Division Manager

## RESIDENTIAL STREETS ALL-WAY STOP ANALYSIS

Date: 6/05/09 Project No. 2008-316-10  
 Location: Latimer Av @ Vallejo Dr C.D. 1

**BACKGROUND:**

Type intersection: Four-way Reason for study: Right of way concern  
 Existing controls: Two way stop on Vallejo Dr  
 Previous studies: 4/26/96, 7/23/03, 12/13/07

**INITIAL QUALIFICATIONS: (All must be satisfied)**

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Both streets must have residential frontage   | Satisfied<br><u>YES</u> |
| 2. Neither street can be a designated thoroughfare street or a street on the general plan. | <u>YES</u>              |
| 3. Neither street can have an average daily traffic volume exceeding 6000.                 | <u>YES</u>              |

**WARRANTS: (A total of 20 points needed)** POINTS

1. Accidents: (6 points per correctable accident for any 12 month period within the last 2 years)... 0

	Study Period	Intersection Accidents	Correctable
12 months			
24 months	<u>5/30/07- 5/30/09</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
12 month correctable date(s)			

2. Volume: (12 points maximum) ..... 0

One point for every 100 conflicting movement per day in excess of first 400 conflicting movements for a four-way intersection. One point for every 100 conflicting movement per day in excess of first 300 conflicting movements for a three-way intersection.

Major street: Latimer Av Volume: 1300  
 Minor street: Vallejo Dr Volume: 300

3. School: (6 points maximum)..... 0

INTERSECTION	SCHOOL 1	SCHOOL 2	SCHOOL 3
Adjacent	3 points	3 points	3 points
One Block	2 points	2 points	2 points
Two Block	1 point	1 point	1 point

4. Unusual condition: (12 points maximum)..... 4

High pedestrian activity due to proximity to Hathaway Park 3pts  
 Lack of visibility due to SE corner landscaping 1pt

**TOTAL POINTS:** 4

Warranted:

Unwarranted:

Comments:

If warranted, were the residents on all corners of the intersection contacted?

Northwest: \_\_\_\_\_ Northeast: \_\_\_\_\_ Southwest: \_\_\_\_\_ Southeast: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Lily Lim-Tsao, P.E., Division Manager

# ATTACHMENT 3

June 22, 2009

Mr. Keith Knudson  
1353 Garrans Drive  
San Jose, CA 95130

Dear Mr. Knudson:

**SUBJECT: ALL-WAY STOP STUDIES AT VALLEJO DRIVE INTERSECTING WITH  
COLOMBO DRIVE AND LATIMER AVENUE**

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety at Vallejo Drive/Colombo Drive and Vallejo Drive/Latimer Avenue. In response to your concern, all-way stop analyses have been conducted at these intersections in accordance with City Council Policy 8-1. The analyses take into consideration crash history, visibility, safe approach speeds, conflicts due to traffic volumes, presence of schools and any unusual conditions related to the intersection. The study results indicate that the intersections do not presently meet the minimum warrants to justify the installation of all-way stop signs.

To address your concern regarding speeding on Colombo Drive and on Latimer Avenue, the following actions will be taken:

1. Deploy the radar trailer on Colombo Drive and on Latimer Avenue to increase motorists' awareness of the speed limit;
2. Request the San Jose Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) to provide additional enforcement in the neighborhood;
3. Upgrade the existing pedestrian signs on Colombo Drive and on Latimer Avenue to high visibility neon signs to increase motorists' awareness of pedestrian activity;
4. Install reflective centerline pavement markers on Latimer Avenue at Lamore Drive to channelize motorists around the curve;
5. Install red curb on the southeast corner of Latimer Avenue/Saratoga Avenue to improve ingress visibility;
6. Trim the bush on the southeast corner of Latimer Avenue/Vallejo Drive to improve sight distance.

If you are requesting stop signs as a speed control measure, please be advised that unwarranted stop signs are not effective speed control devices (see the enclosed "STOP SIGNS" brochure). It has been our experience that when confronted with unwarranted stop signs, motorists tend to either travel faster between intersections to make up for time lost in stopping, or to disregard stop signs altogether. Each of these circumstances could result in a less safe condition. If you have a concern regarding chronic speeding, please contact the San José Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit at [www.sjpd.org/TEU](http://www.sjpd.org/TEU).

All-Way Stop Studies at Vallejo Dr Intersecting with Colombo Dr and Latimer Av  
June 22, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

If you wish to appeal this stop sign decision, you must request a hearing before the Traffic Appeals Commission within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of this letter. Appeals are held on the third Thursday of the month, as needed. You may schedule an appearance before the Commission by writing the Commission Secretary at the following address:

City of San José – DOT  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower  
San José, CA 95113-1905  
Attn: Traffic Appeals Commission – Secretary

Again, thank you for taking an active interest in traffic safety in your community. Should you have any questions, please contact Veronica Kortright, of my staff, at (408) 975-3288.

Sincerely,



LILY LIM-TSAO, P.E.  
Division Manager

c: Mary Anne Groen, Councilmember Constant's Office

Enclosure  
2008-316-9  
2008-316-10

# ATTACHMENT 4

## *Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association*

June 21, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE & REGULAR U.S. MAIL

Mr. James R. Helmer  
City of San Jose - DOT  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower  
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

City of San Jose - DOT  
200 East Santa Clara Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower  
San Jose, CA 95113-1905  
Attn: Traffic Appeals Commission - Secretary

Re: Request for Appeal of Stop Sign Decision (Vallejo Drive Intersecting with Columbo Drive and Latimer Avenue, San Jose, CA)

Dear Mr. Helmer,

I write in response to your letter dated June 22, 2009 as the President of the Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association as well an individual resident of the community. We respectfully request a hearing before the Traffic Appeals Commission to appeal the stop sign decisions regarding the intersections of Latimer Avenue & Vallejo Drive and Columbo Drive & Vallejo Drive.

We appreciate the traffic study conducted in our neighborhood, and are happy that your department has already implemented most of the traffic calming actions listed in your letter. However, we disagree with the findings of the study - cars do speed through the neighborhood as a short cut between Saratoga Avenue and Hamilton Avenue. Perhaps your sensors were not located close enough to the subject intersections, but I have personally witnessed cars travelling at high speeds down Latimer and Columbo. This creates a dangerous situation at the crosswalks in the subject intersections, as well as for cars turning from Vallejo onto either Latimer or Columbo.

We understand that stop signs are not a panacea for speeding; however, our primary concern is about the safety of the crosswalks at the above referenced intersections which are heavily used by children walking to and from Prospect High School and the Westgate Mall and by both children and adults for access to Hathaway Park. Residents have repeatedly complained at our meetings that cars are speeding along and do not stop for pedestrians. The residents of the community overwhelmingly feel that stop signs at the intersections will be a more powerful manner of achieving public safety than yield signs.

Mr. James R. Helmer  
San Jose DOT/Traffic Appeals  
June 21, 2008  
Page 2

Therefore, we respectfully seek to appeal the stop sign decisions regarding the intersections of Latimer Avenue & Vallejo Drive and Columbo Drive & Vallejo Drive as a matter of public safety. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (408) 374-7709 or by mail at P.O. Box 10338, San Jose CA 95157

Sincerely,

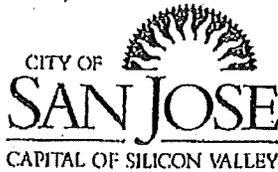


Jason W. Klawitter, President

cc: Hon. Pete Constant, San Jose City Council, District 1  
Ms. Rovylynn Cansino, Councilmember Constant's Office  
HPNA Officers & Members

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# ATTACHMENT 5



# Memorandum

**TO:** Traffic Appeals Commission

**FROM:** Sam Koosha  
Department of Transportation

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** September 15, 2009

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Approved

Date

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**SUBJECT: APPEAL FOR ALL-WAY STOP SIGNS AT VALLEJO DRIVE  
INTERSECTING WITH COLOMBO DRIVE AND LATIMER AVENUE**

## BACKGROUND

In response to a request made by Mr. Klawitter, President of the Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association and Mr. Knudson, the Department of Transportation (DOT) performed an all-way stop control analysis at both intersections of Vallejo Drive - Colombo Drive, and Vallejo Drive - Latimer Avenue. It has been determined that these intersections do not meet the criteria for residential all-way stop controls as delineated in Council Policy 8-1.

## ANALYSIS

The Department of Transportation receives several requests annually for installation of stop signs. In order to establish consistency in the evaluation and approval of stop sign installation, the City Council has adopted Council Policy 8-1.

Council Policy 8-1 establishes the criteria used to determine if stop signs should be considered for installation. Stop signs are installed with the intent to establish right-of-way, reduce vehicle delays, and enhance safety for all roadway users. A minimum of 20 points is needed to warrant installation of residential all-way stop signs for locations such as the intersections mentioned above.

### Intersection of Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive

The intersection of Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive is located (see attached map) in a predominantly residential neighborhood east of Saratoga Avenue. Hathaway Park is situated at the southeast corner of the intersection and there are crosswalks on all four legs of the intersection. Vallejo Drive functions as a collector street with a 25 mile per hour (mph) posted speed limit and has front-on homes accessing the street. The intersection is controlled by a two-way stop; traffic on Vallejo Drive stops for traffic on Colombo Drive. Colombo Drive carries approximately 1500 vehicles per day while Vallejo Drive carries 300 vehicles per day, a traffic volume ration of 5 to 1. Traffic collision records obtained from the San Jose Police Department indicate no reported intersection crashes at this intersection for the past two years.

SUBJECT: Appeal for all-way stop signs at Vallejo Drive intersecting with Colombo Drive and Latimer Avenue  
September 10, 2009  
Page 2

In accordance with Council Policy 8-1, warrant points assigned for the intersection of Vallejo Drive and Colombo Drive are as follows:

1) Crash experience	0 points
2) Approach volumes	0 points
3) School warrant (K- 12 <sup>th</sup> )	0 points
4) Unusual conditions	<u>3 points</u>
TOTAL	3 POINTS

Unusual condition points were given for pedestrian activity and close proximity of the intersection to the Hathaway Park.

This intersection received only 3 points of the minimum 20 points needed in order to meet the Council adopted criteria for installation of all-way stop signs.

Intersection of Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue

The intersection of Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue is also located (see attached map) in a predominantly residential neighborhood east of Saratoga Avenue. Hathaway Park is within 100 feet of the intersection in the northeast quadrant. Crosswalks exist on the north and south legs of the intersection. The intersection is controlled by a two-way stop; traffic on Vallejo stops for traffic on Latimer Avenue. Latimer Avenue carries approximately 1300 vehicles per day while Vallejo Drive carries an average of 300 vehicles per day, a traffic volume ratio of 4.3 to 1. Traffic collision records obtained from the San Jose Police Department indicate no reported intersection crashes at this intersection for the past two years.

In accordance with Council Policy 8-1, warrant points assigned for the intersection of Vallejo Drive and Latimer Avenue are as follows:

1) Crash experience	0 points
2) Approach volumes	0 points
3) School warrant (K- 12 <sup>th</sup> )	0 points
4) Unusual conditions	<u>4 points</u>
TOTAL	4 POINTS

Unusual condition points were given for high pedestrian activity, close proximity of the Hathaway Park to the intersection (3 points) and for the lack of visibility due to landscaping at the southeast corner (1 point).

This intersection received only 4 points of the minimum 20 points needed in order to meet the Council adopted criteria for installation of all-way stop signs.

SUBJECT: Appeal for all-way stop signs at Vallejo Drive intersecting with Colombo Drive and Latimer Avenue  
September 10, 2009  
Page 3

To address Mr. Knudson's concerns regarding speeding in the neighborhood, the following measures were implemented:

- Deployed the radar trailer on Vallejo Drive to increase motorists' awareness of the speed limit;
- Upgraded the existing pedestrian signs on Colombo Drive and on Latimer Avenue to high visibility neon signs to increase motorists' awareness of pedestrian activity;
- Installed reflective centerline pavement markers on Latimer Avenue at Lamore Drive to channelize motorists around the curve;
- Installed red curb on the southeast corner of Latimer Avenue/Saratoga Avenue to improve ingress visibility;
- Trimmed the bush on the southeast corner of Latimer Avenue / Vallejo Drive to improve the sight distance.

#### Unwarranted Stop Signs

When warranted, stop signs serve to enhance traffic safety at an intersection by establishing appropriate right-of-way controls. Installing unwarranted stop signs can have the reverse effect by providing a false sense of security to pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists.

Unwarranted stop signs tend to be disrespected by drivers who do not fully stop and who may even speed up between stops. On Vallejo Drive, unwarranted all-way stop controls could result in rear-end type crashes. It should be noted that both Federal and State guidelines recommend against installing stop signs for speed control.

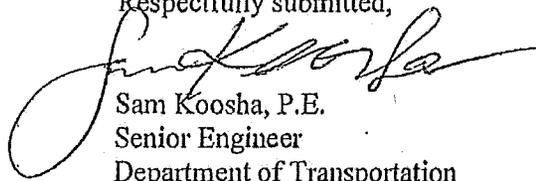
#### COORDINATION

This appeal has been coordinated with the Police Department.

#### RECOMMENDATION

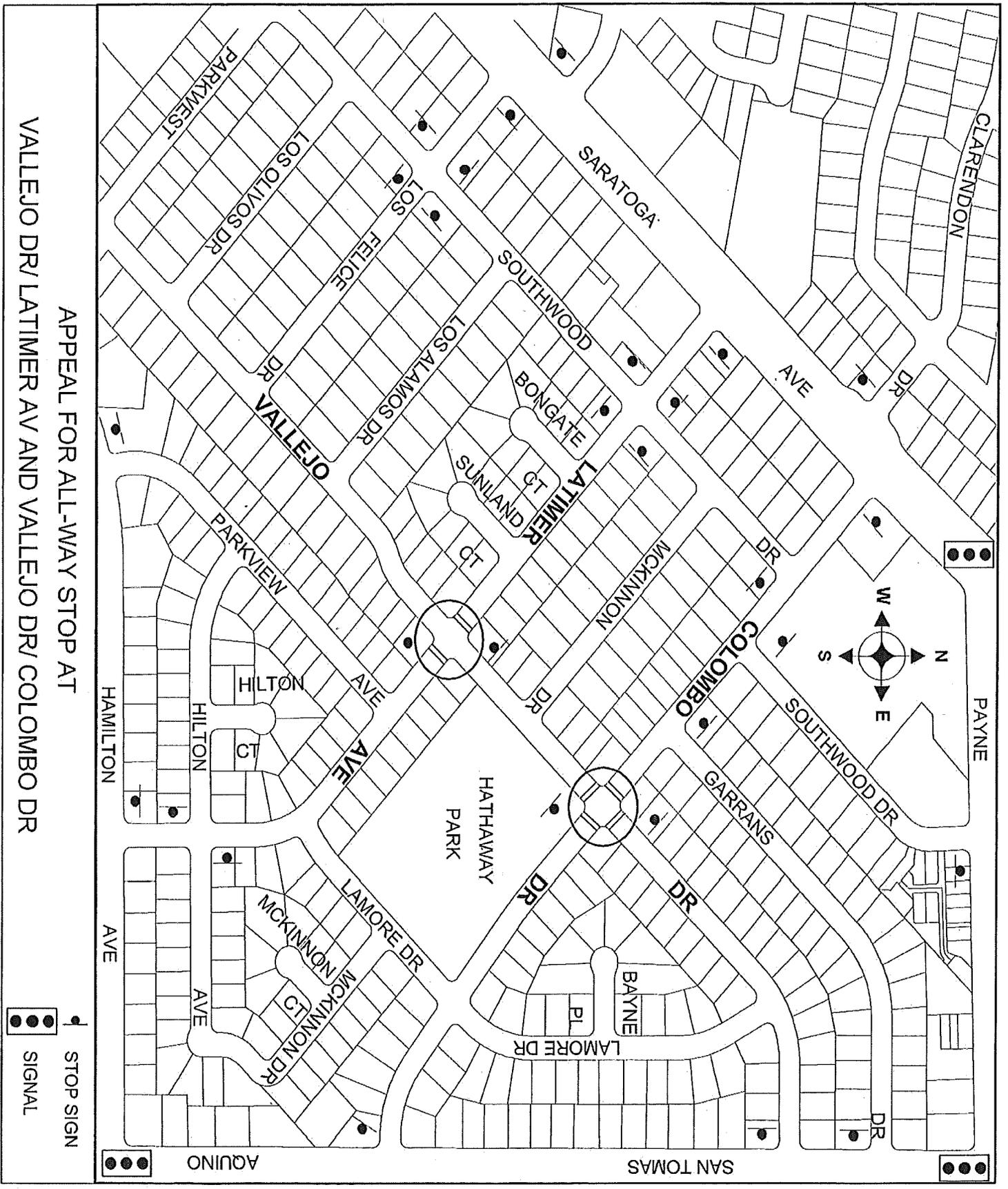
The intersections of Vallejo Drive - Colombo Drive and Vallejo Drive - Latimer Avenue do not meet the Council adopted policy for all-way stop controls. The Department of Transportation recommends that the appeal for all-way stop sign controls at these intersections be denied.

Respectfully submitted,



Sam Koosha, P.E.  
Senior Engineer  
Department of Transportation

cc: Sgt. Steve Angel, SJPD (TEU)  
Councilmember Pete Constant  
Lily Lim-Tsao, Division Manager, DOT



APPEAL FOR ALL-WAY STOP AT  
 VALLEJO DR/ LATIMER AV AND VALLEJO DR/ COLOMBO DR

STOP SIGN  
 SIGNAL

# ATTACHMENT 6

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

February 25, 2010

Jason Klawitter, President  
Hathaway Parks Neighborhood Assn.  
P.O. Box 10338  
San Jose, CA 95157

**SUBJECT: TRAFFIC APPEALS COMMISSION DECISION REGARDING THE  
INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTIONS OF  
VALLEJO DRIVE/COLOMBO DRIVE AND VALLEJO DRIVE/  
LATIMER AVENUE**

Dear Mr. Klawitter,

The San José Traffic Appeals Commission (TAC) conducted a hearing on October 15, 2009 in accordance with Section 11.18.050 of the San José Municipal Code to hear your appeal for installation of all-way stop control at the intersections of Vallejo Drive/Colombo Drive and Vallejo Drive/Latimer Avenue. After providing all persons with a full opportunity to be heard and provide evidence, TAC denied your appeal and found that both of these intersections do not meet the criteria for residential all-way stop control as outlined in City Council Policy 8-1. A copy of the minutes of the meeting is attached to this Notice of Decision.

I understand that you were previously provided with incorrect information regarding whether the TAC's decision could be further appealed to the City Council. I apologize for this misinformation and any confusion that this caused. Decisions of the TAC may be appealed to the City Council in accordance with Section 11.18.060 of the Municipal Code. If you would like to appeal the TAC's decision for either, or both, of the above intersections, you must request to do so within ten (10) calendar days from the postmarked date of this Notice. The attached form should be used to submit an appeal request, and sent to the Department of Transportation at the following address:

City of San José – DOT  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower  
San José, CA 95113-1905  
Attn: Traffic Appeals Commission – Secretary

Jason Klawiter

**Subject: Notice of Decision**

February 25, 2010

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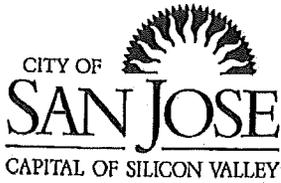
Upon receipt of a written request for appeal, we will work with the City Clerk's Office to agendaize the appeal and notify you of the City Council meeting date. Attached for your use is a copy of the September 15, 2009 staff report to the TAC and other documents provided to the TAC in advance of the October 15, 2009 hearing. If you have any questions, please contact Sam Koosha, a Senior Engineer in our department at (408) 975-3264.



LAURA WELLS, P.E.  
Deputy Director  
Department of Transportation

**Attachments**

cc: Councilmember Pete Constant  
TAC Chair Pelton  
Residents: Keith Knudson  
Karl Sckricker  
Andrea Miller  
Richard Hendricks



*Department of Transportation*

HANS F. LARSEN, ACTING DIRECTOR

**APPEAL OF STOP SIGNS TO THE SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL**

I/We \_\_\_\_\_, wish to appeal the  
decision of the Traffic Appeals Commission at their meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ October 15, 2009  
regarding the installation of stop signs for the intersection(s) of:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) supporting appeal (*use additional sheets or attach documents as needed*) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

# ATTACHMENT 7

## *Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association*

March 8, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE & REGULAR U.S. MAIL

Mr. Hans F. Larsen  
Ms. Laura Wells  
City of San Jose – Department of Transportation  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower  
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

Re: Request for Appeal of Stop Sign Decision (Vallejo Drive Intersecting with Columbo Drive and Latimer Avenue, San Jose, CA)

Dear Mr. Larsen and Ms. Wells,

I write as the President of the Hathaway Park Neighborhood Association, as well an individual resident of the community. We respectfully request a hearing before the San Jose City Council to appeal the Traffic Appeals Commission's stop sign decisions regarding the intersections of Latimer Avenue & Vallejo Drive and Columbo Drive & Vallejo Drive.

We appreciate the traffic study conducted in our neighborhood, and are happy that your department has implemented most of the traffic calming actions listed in your letter dated June 22, 2008. However, the actions have not addressed the fundamental safety concern of our residents; namely, cars speed through our neighborhood along Latimer and Columbo, as a short cut between Saratoga Avenue and Hamilton Avenue, and do not stop for pedestrians using the crosswalks along Vallejo Drive. This creates a dangerous situation at the cross-walks in the subject intersections, as well as for cars turning from Vallejo onto either Latimer or Columbo. The high-visibility signs have done little or nothing to remedy the situation.

We understand that stop signs are not a panacea for speeding. We have been told that stop signs can create unsafe conditions for complacent pedestrians. We have been told about environmental and noise concerns. We understand that it may delay some commuters by 10 or 20 seconds to stop at the intersections. However, we must weigh those concerns against the overriding public safety concerns. We must ensure the safety of the children and adults who use those intersections as their main access to Hathaway Park or who are walking to and from Prospect High School and the Westgate Mall. Therefore, we respectfully seek to have 4-way stop signs installed at the intersections of Latimer Avenue/Vallejo Drive and Columbo Drive/Vallejo Drive as a matter of public safety.

Mr. Hans F. Larsen  
Ms. Laura Wells  
March 8, 2008  
Page 2

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (408) 374-7709 or by mail at P.O. Box 10338, San Jose CA 95157.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Klawitter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Jason W. Klawitter, President

cc: Hon. Pete Constant, San Jose City Council, District 1  
Ms. Rovylynn Cansino, Councilmember Constant's Office  
HPNA Officers & Members

**APPEAL OF STOP SIGNS TO THE SAN JOSE CITY COUNCIL**

I/We KEITH KNUDSON, wish to appeal the

decision of the Traffic Appeals Commission at their meeting on October 15, 2009

regarding the installation of stop signs for the intersection(s) of:

1. COLUMBO DR + VALLEJO DR.
2. VALLEJO DR. + LATIMER AVE

Reason(s) supporting appeal (use additional sheets or attach documents as needed) \_\_\_\_\_

SPEEDING IS A BIG ISSUE WITH VEHICLES GOING ON  
COLUMBO DRIVE. IN YOUR REPORT I READ 1500 VEHICLES PER DAY  
TRAVEL DOWN COLUMBO. A LOT OF PEOPLE USE COLUMBO AS A  
"THROUGH FARE", DISREGARDING THE FACT OF A RESIDENTIAL  
STREET AND A 25MPH ZONE. CROSSWALKS AT BOTH INTERSECTIONS  
ARE UNSAFE ESPECIALLY AT NIGHT. I'M ASKING THE CITY  
OF SAN JOSE TO PLEASE REVIEW AND CONSIDER THE STOP SIGNS  
AT BOTH INTERSECTIONS TO MAKE IT SAFE FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD.  
THIS WILL NOT IMPED TRAFFIC BUT GET THEM TO SLOW DOWN  
BEFORE AN ACCIDENT DOES HAPPEN.

Signature(s) Keith Knudson

Address: 1353 BARRANCK DR. SJ.

e-mail: DIGITALENG@HOTMAIL.COM Telephone: (408) 568-2004