

Staff Responses to CSSC Requests

- Can CSSC continue to recruit a representative from Ward 4?

Response from Jessie Carpenter: You can certainly encourage Ward 4 residents to attend meetings and the CSSC can decide if and how it wants them to participate. The Council would have the option to appoint an additional person if it chooses. However, it isn't necessarily the case that Ward 4 interests can only be represented by a resident from Ward 4. The CSSC is free to talk to people, observe, request public comment, gather data from the Police Department, and, of course, speak with Terry Seamens, and so on. I'd encourage that route rather than spending Committee time specifically trying to recruit a member from Ward 4.

- What is the process for amending a resolution vs. administrative regulations?

Response from Jessie Carpenter: The sidewalk policy is set forth in the resolution, which can be revised or replaced by the City Council.

Traffic calming is included in Ch. 13.28 of the City Code and there are some relevant definitions in Ch. 13.04. School zones are designated in 13.08. The City Code is amended by a two-reading ordinance adopted by the Council. Administrative regulations are proposed and promulgated by the City Manager. Regulations can be drafted by staff or by a committee. There is a publication and public review process. The Council has the option to intervene in the process and can schedule a public hearing or address administrative regulations in work session. The administrative regulation process is regulated by Ch. 2.12 of the Code.

- What are the current standards for speed humps in the City? Has the City phased out the design seen on Maple Avenue?

Response from Daryl Braithwaite: The City Code defines speed hump height to be 3 to 4 inches. In addition we offer 2 types, the County standard - which is Montgomery County's version and the City standard, which is our own special hump on a bump.

Council has not restricted the type of speed hump we install at this point.

The speed humps installed on Maple Avenue (7200-7400 block) was a special case where the Council agreed to violate the City Code and install speed humps higher than 4 inches.

- Does the City use speed cameras as a form of traffic enforcement? If so, how does the program work? Does the City receive any revenue?

Response from Sgt. Robison: Yes. Speed cameras are used by the Police Department for traffic enforcement. Speed cameras are utilized 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to slow drivers down to keep the roads safe. This allows officers to focus attention on other areas and other high crime problems. The speed camera units are tested daily to ensure they are functioning properly. The city does generate revenue through the speed camera program however, the revenue generated can only be used for public safety matters. Public safety matters could be anything from improving crosswalks and sidewalks to purchasing new equipment for officers.

- Can you provide a brief overview of the way that traffic enforcement in the City generally works? What is the general procedure?

Response from Sgt. Robison: The way traffic enforcement works is we typically go where we are currently getting the most complaints. So, for example if someone emails the city and says there are a lot of people violating stop signs in their neighborhood we will send out the information to all the officers and have the beat officer focus some attention on that area. Other than that, all officers have their own areas that they like to enforce where they know there are a lot of violators.

Every once in awhile we will conduct special details to focus on a particular violation. Right now I am working on trying to put together a detail to enforce pedestrian safety laws, and every winter we work in conjunction with Montgomery County to enforce DUI/DWI laws.

- Does the Police Dept collect crash data?

Response from Sgt. Robison: We do collect crash data. We use the same reporting guidelines as Maryland State Police. So, only serious accidents are recorded. The guidelines for serious accidents are if anyone was injured, if a vehicle was towed, if anyone was cited, if there was a hit-and-run with suspect info, and if government property was damaged. If any one of those criteria are met then the officer will have to write a report and the data from that report is collected. We do not keep data on minor accidents unless it meets one of the guidelines