

Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 13, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Removal of Traffic Bollards on the Intersection at Fairview and California St.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Refer to the City Manager to remove the traffic bollards at the intersection at Fairview and California St. for the following reasons:

1. To allow residents, emergency responders, street cleaning and garbage disposal services, and delivery vehicles ease of access to enter and exit Fairview Street;
2. To allow residents of the 1600 block of Fairview St. access to additional parking spots because the current capacity is inadequate; and
3. To decrease illegal dumping that has been incentivized by the traffic bollards and eliminate the harborage of junk, debris, and garbage.

CURRENT SITUATION

Traffic bollards on the intersection at Fairview and California Street have created many issues for residents on the 1600 block of Fairview Street. Since the road was never intended to be a cul-de-sac, it was not designed to allow drivers to conveniently exit when one entrance is blocked off. Instead, drivers are either forced to make a u-turn, which is difficult to do because of the narrow road, or they must drive onto an empty driveway to exit the street. However, exiting the street is made especially difficult as a result of the multitude of cars that line the street. In addition, some residents block off their driveway with trash cans to prevent cars from touching their property.

The bollards have also created barriers for those who need quick access to the street, such as large delivery trucks, emergency responders, street cleaning vehicles, and other vehicles. Many of these trucks must reverse their vehicle for long stretches of the road in order to exit the street. However, as stated previously, this is no easy task.

Making matters worse, the traffic bollards have incentivized illegal dumping. Mattresses, dressers, and other furniture have been found littered in front of the bollards. Because the dumpings do not “block” the road, local authorities do not prioritize its clean up. Not only is this aesthetically displeasing, but it can also be a potential hazard.

In response to these frustrations, people frequently and illegally move the bollards to allow their cars to pass through. It is important to note that these actions have not resulted in any reported accidents or speeding violations. It has become clear that the

bollards no longer serve a use on this street and are merely a hindrance to the community.

BACKGROUND

The traffic bollards were put in place through council resolution (No. 54,046 and No. 54,046) and as a result, removal of the bollards requires City Council action. In 2019, a constituent issued a neighborhood petition among residents on the 1600 block of Fairview St., demonstrating that up to 53% (depending on conflicting address records) of the households on the block support the removal of the traffic bollards (refer to Attachment 1). Of the people who opened their doors to sign the petition, however, 77% responded in favor of removing the bollards.

Those that signed the petition believe that the need for these bollards is long gone. In response to speeding, permanent traffic circles have been installed both at the intersection of California and Fairview Street and throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. Hence, removing the bollards would not result in a substantial increase in traffic nor would it incentivize speeding because the traffic circles already serve as deterrents. In addition, the area is no longer a hot-bed for crime, which was the reason that the bollards were implemented in the first place. Instead, the bollards have done nothing except attract illegal dumping and cause inconvenience to drivers in the neighborhood.

In November 2019, City staff sent a letter to the Fairview Street residents to inform them of the petition and that this item will be brought to Council in 2020. See Attachment 2. The plan was to bring this item to the Transportation Commission followed by City Council this year. However, the item was pushed off as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and was never introduced because the Transportation Commission has not continued their regular meetings.

The Council should refer to the City Manager to remove the traffic bollards at the Fairview and California Street intersection. If this item passes, the Department should move forward with this request once the department has addressed its immediate priorities.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Total costs would only include the cost of relocation. This is because the bollards can be reused since they are still in good condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Not only are illegal dumpings an eyesore, but they also increase the chance that chemicals from waste and certain appliances can pollute the soil and waterways. In addition, many of the appliances that are dumped are highly flammable, and, unless properly disposed of, could act as kindling for a fire.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett:

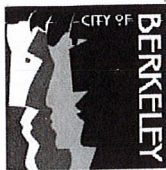
510-981-7130

Katie Ly

kly@cityofberkeley.info

ATTACHMENTS

1. Neighborhood Petition
2. Fairview Street Outreach Letter



RECEIVED
OCT 10 2019
BY: JG

Date: SEPT 19, 2019

City of Berkeley

Neighborhood Request for Traffic PASSAGE/INGRESS + EGRESS

We, the residents of 1600 BLOCK OF FAIRVIEW ST., would like the City of Berkeley's Public Works (PW) Transportation Division to initiate a Traffic INGRESS + EGRESS PASSAGE in our INTERSECTION to address the following concern(s):

- Speeding
- Pedestrian Safety
- Cut-Through Traffic
- Commercial Vehicle Restriction
- Bicycle Safety

Parking Issues MOBILITY ON STREET CLEANING AND PARKING ENFORCEMENT DAYS

Other (Please Specify) USE AND MOBILITY OF ACCESS TO RESIDENT VEHICLES TO: ALCATRAZ SACRAMENTO ASHBY CORRIDORS
ELIMINATION OF HARBORAGE OF JUNK, DEBRIS + GARBAGE

◆ The specific location encompasses THE INTERSECTION, between FAIRVIEW ST and CALIFORNIA ST.

- Brief explanation of the reasons for the need for traffic PASSAGE, and any supporting observations:
 - ① THIS INTERSECTION, 30 YEARS AGO, WAS A HEAVY DRIVE CORNER. NOT FOR DECADES.
 - ② RESIDENTS OF 1600 BLOCK OF FAIRVIEW ARE UNNECESSARILY OBSTRUCTED AND INCONVENIENCED BY THE OBSTRUCTIVE "BOLLARDS", OBSTRUCTIVE SIGNS AND ENFORCEMENT.
 - ③ THE BOLLARDS ARE PUSHED TO THE SIDE OF THE STREET, OPENING PASSAGE "ILLEGALLY".
 - ④ THE BOLLARDS, CONSEQUENTLY, CREATE A HARBOR FOR JUNK, DEBRIS, + GARBAGE.
 - ⑤ WE ALREADY ILLEGALLY PASS THROUGH REGULARLY. MANY DO NOT ILLEGALLY PASS THROUGH

➤ Please provide the name and contact information of the resident representing the consensus of your neighborhood on this matter:

Name: ANDREW MAROWITZ
Address: 1605 FAIRVIEW ST #4, BERKELEY, CA. 94703
Telephone: 510-356-6803 email: _____

Please submit the completed form to:

Jesse Peoples, PE
1947 Center Street, 4th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

jpeoples@cityofberkeley.info

1. ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO, CALIFORNIA X FAIRVIEW WAS A HOT DRUG CORNER
 - (a) CITY COUNCIL VOTED ON RESOLUTION TO BLOCK ACCESS WITH OBSTRUCTIONS
2. IN THE LAST 15 YEARS OR LESS, PERMANENT TRAFFIC CIRCLES INSTALLED TO REDUCE SPEED OF VEHICLES
 - (a) THE PRE-EXISTING OBSTRUCTIONS REMAINED WITH TRAFFIC CIRCLES
3. DRUG SALES AT THIS LOCATION ELIMINATED DECADES AGO
 - (a) FAIRVIEW IS NOW/CURRENTLY A LOW CRIME AREA NEAR CALIFORNIA/KING
 - (b) DUE TO TRAFFIC CIRCLE(S) SPEEDING VEHICLES ARE FEW/NOT FREQUENT

PROBLEMS GENERATED BY BOLLARDS/AND RULES

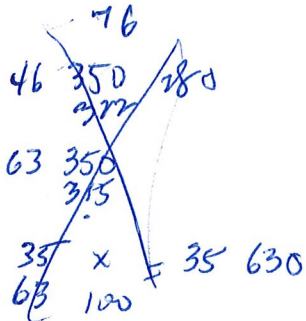
1. RESIDENTS WITH VEHICLES CANNOT READILY ACCESS ^{TO/FROM} CALIFORNIA, ALCATRAZ, SACRAMENTO, ASHBY UNLESS VIOLATING RULES
 - (a) BOLLARDS ARE PUSHED TO THE SIDE WHENEVER AFTER REPOSITIONING
 - (b) 1600 BLOCK OF FAIRVIEW HAS INSUFFICIENT PARKING SPACES FOR AMOUNT OF RESIDENTS SO CALIFORNIA AND 1500 BLOCK ARE NEEDED
 - (c) ACCESS TO THE TURNAROUND OF THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE IS IMPORTANT
 - (d) STREET CLEANING DAYS (FIRST MON/TUES/WEDS/THURS) OF MONTH ACCESS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT
 - (e) FED EX/UPS TRUCKS (LARGE) AND EMERGENCY VEHICLES ACCESS EGRESS/EGRESS IS CHALLENGING
 - (f) TURNING AROUND ON A DEAD END STREET IS CHALLENGING/Y-TURN INTO OUT OF DRIVEWAYS (WITHOUT ACCESSING TURNAROUND/TRAFFIC CIRCLE
 - (g) THE BOLLARDS PUSHED TO THE SIDE HAS EVOLVED INTO A HARBOURAGE OF RE-USE OF CAST-OFF POSSESSIONS, AND DE-VOLVED INTO DEBRIS AND GARBAGE DUMP - LOOKS TERRIBLE/PUBLIC WORKS PICKS UP FREQUENTLY
GET RID OF BOLLARDS WILL ELIMINATE A DUMP SITE AS CARS WILL BE BLOCKED BY DEBRIS

NOT HOME

NOT HOME

1632
 Not #7

1649
 1637 #1, #3
 1627 #8
 1625 #A, #B, #C
 1623 #2, #3, #7
 1619 #4
 1603 ?
 1607 #C, #D, #E



35 FOR / 11 AGAINST = 76% OF CONTACTS FAVOR
 35 OF 63 = 55.55% OF ADDRESSES

42 ADDRESSES

24 + 42 = 66 ADDRESSES

24 ADDRESSES

- 1640 (SFR) (YES)
- 1638 (SFR) (YES)
- 1636 (SFR) (NO / NO CONTACT)
- 1634 (SFR) (THINK ABOUT IT)
- 1630/32 (TWO HOUSES) (NOT HOME + NOT COME TO DOOR)
- 1626/28 (5 UNITS) (2 YES, 1 NO)
- 1622 (SFR) (NO)
- 1618 (7 UNITS) (3 YES, 1 NO)
- 1614/16 (DUPLEX) (NO / NO CONTACT)
- 1610 (SFR) (YES)
- 1606 (SFR) (NO)
- 1600 (SFR) (YES)

- ~~35~~ SIGNATURES
- 9 AGAINST
- 2 DOESN'T SIGN ANYTHING
- 17 NOT HOME / NOT ANSWER
- 3 VACANCIES
- 66 ADDRESSES

- (SFR) 1649
- (YES) (SFR) 1645
- (YES) (SFR) 1641
- (3 YES) (5 UNITS) 1639
- (NO) (SFR) 1637
- (NO) (SFR) 1635
- RENOVATE (SFR) 1631
- (2 YES) (3 UNITS) 1627
- ~~2 YES~~ (3 UNITS) 1625
- (5 YES) (8 UNITS) 1623
- (3 YES) (4 UNITS) 1619
- (2 YES) (2 VACANCIES) (4 UNITS) 1615
- (6 YES) (9 UNITS) 1607/11
- (NO) (DUPLEX) 1603/05
- (YES) (SFR) 1607

EVEN NUMBERED ADDRESSES

ODD NUMBERED ADDRESSES




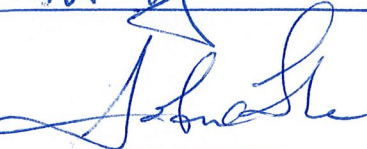

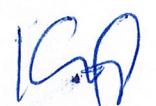

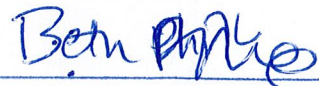
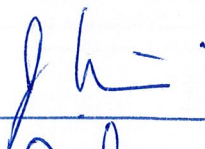




SFR 1649
5 1645 +A
SFR 1641

~~1649~~
~~1645~~

5 1639
SFR 1637
SFR 1635
- ROAD - 1631
9 1627
3 1625
8 1623
4 1619
4 1615
3+6 1607/11
2 1603-5
1 1601

~~1641~~
SFR 1640
SFR 1638
SFR 1631
SFR 1634
1630-7
2 SFR 1631
5 (1628
5 1626
SFR 1622
7 1618
2 1614
1 1610
1 1606
1 1600

45
24
69
67

SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PRINT NAME
	1615 FAIRVIEW ST #4	ANDREW MAROWITZ
	1615 Fairview St #1	John C. Lake
	1601 Fairview ST	Elizabeth Diamond
	1606 Fairview	VITAL KONONOV
	1607 Fairview APT. B	NISSIM BOOZAGLO
	1607 Fairview APT F	Beth Phillips
	1607 Fairview APT A	Jesse Williamson
	1619 Fairview St APT 3	Claudia Marguer
	1623 Fairview St # B	Sam Fiamé Bradley
	1623 Fairview St #6	Erika Espinoza
	1618 Fairview St. Apt. 5	Michael White

1623 #2 Doesn't Show Anything

1622 WANTS IT TO STAY AS-IS

1618 #2 MOTHER AND YOUNG(2) KIDS ADVIS LOW TRAFFIC



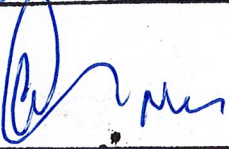
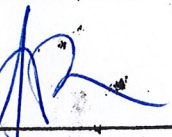
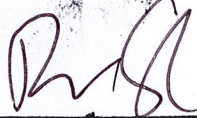
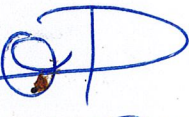
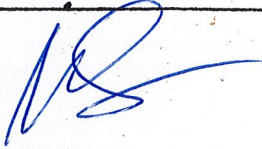

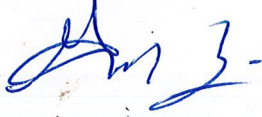
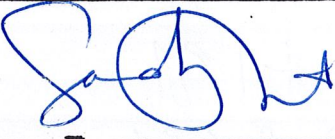

1605 NOT WANT TO INVOLVE

1631 VACANT/RENOVATION

1635 ~~NO ACCESS TO BELL/ADULT ADULTS~~ AGAINST

1697 AGAINST

1639 #3 NEW/LIKES DEAD END STREETS

SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PRINT NAME
1 	1615 FAIRVIEW ST #4	ANDREW MAROWITZ
2 	1639 FAIRVIEW ST. #5 APT.	JERILENE BROWN
3 	1645 FAIRVIEW ST	DANICE NULL
4 	1640 FAIRVIEW ST	Anand Brown
5 	1638 FAIRVIEW ST	Ron Shigeta
6 	1610 FAIRVIEW ST.	Opal Davenport
7 	1618 FAIRVIEW #6	NINA STAVINSKA
8 	1616 FAIRVIEW #3	Nicole White
9 	1614 FAIRVIEW #4	Gail Levin
10 	1626 FAIRVIEW ST	SARAH WHITT
11 	1624 FAIRVIEW #1	BRAD EFFORD
12		

~~1644 NO HOME~~

1639 #3 NO HOME

1649 NO HOME

1636 NOPE

1628 COME BACK - THINK ABOUT IT

1614 NOPE

1606 NOPE

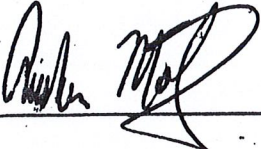
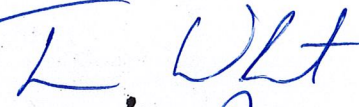
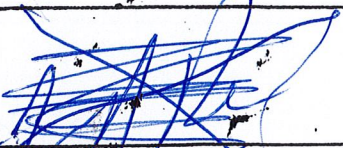

1658 #3 NOT INTERESTED

1625 A/B/C NOT HOME







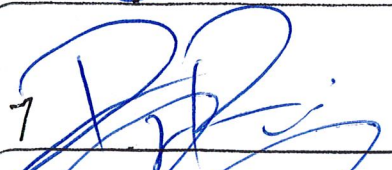

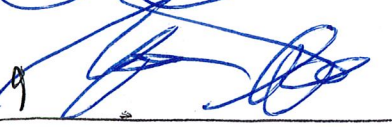
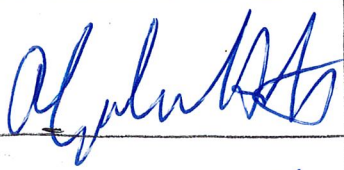
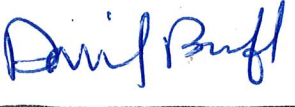

1626 A COUPLE APTS NOT HOME

1628 A COUPLE NOT HOME

1628 #3 NOT INTERESTED

SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PRINT NAME
1 	1615 FAIRVIEW ST #4	ANDREW MAROWITZ
2	1639 FAIRVIEW ST #4	MARION MORRIS
3 	1641 Fairview	Tim White
4 		
5 	1618 Fairview ST #1	Kyle Brewer
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

PETITION SIGNATURE LIST FAIRVIEW ST. 1600 BLOCK

SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	PRINT NAME
1 	1615 FAIRVIEW ST #4	ANDREW MAROWITZ
2 	1611 Fairview St unit C	Andres Rosales
3 	1611 Fairview St unit 7A	Kevin Kraeger
4 	1611 Fairview St Apt B	Jordan Lewis
5 	1619 Fairview St #1	MATT BALABAN
6 	1619 Fairview 2	Elizabeth M.
7 	1623 Apt 1 Fairview St	RUDY RAMIREZ
8 	1623 APT #4 Fairview St	Carmella Carreon
9 	1623 APT. #8 Fairview St.	Cole Ash Houston
10 	1627A Fairview St	Anyssa Vincent-Hill
11 	1627 Fairview Apt C	Danielle Bradford
12 	APT 2 1639 Fairview St	CHRISTINE ROSE

16/9 # 2 NOT HOME





Department of Public Works
Transportation Division

November 25, 2019

Dear Fairview Street Resident,

You are receiving this letter because residents of the 1600 block of Fairview Street have initiated the process to request removal of the traffic diverters on Fairview Street at California Street by circulating a petition within the neighborhood. The petition shows that approximately 53% of the neighborhood supports the removal of these devices. Upon removal of the traffic diverters, the 1600 block of Fairview Street will become a two-way through street with all-way stop control at the intersection of Fairview Street and California Street.

Background:

On January 7, 1988 the Berkeley City Council passed resolution no. 54,046 authorizing installation of temporary traffic diverters on Fairview Street at California Street in an effort to abate crime in the area. On November 4, 1988 council passed resolution no. 54,528 which designated the traffic diverters as permanent fixtures.

Historically traffic diverters have been installed in the City to reduce through traffic, vehicle speeds, and other dangerous driving behaviors. However they can also negatively impact neighborhood circulation, limit access to residents, and encourage illegal dumping.

Next Steps:

Staff will prepare a report for the City Council conveying the results of the petition in favor of the removal of the barriers. The report is expected to be voted on by City Council at a regularly scheduled council meeting during the first half of next year. Please contact me by **Friday, January 3, 2020** at jpeoples@cityofberkeley.info or 510-981-6416 if you have any comments or questions in this regard.

Thank you,

Jesse Peoples, PE
Assistant Traffic Engineer
City of Berkeley, Public Works – Transportation Division
1947 Center Street, 4th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704