



WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306
www.winnetkanc.com



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February 16, 2009

Councilmember Dennis P. Zine
200 North Spring Street, Room 450
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Zine:

The Winnetka Neighborhood Council (WNC) recently heard a presentation by the Department of Transportation regarding the completion of two traffic speed studies within our NC. The two studies covered Roscoe Blvd and Sherman Way.

The DOT reported that they are required by law to periodically conduct traffic speed studies on major streets over two lanes. These studies clock the average speed of hundreds of cars that travel along these streets at tens of locations. From these surveys they compile an average speed that most cars using these streets travel. Both Roscoe Blvd and Sherman Way were clocked at an average speed of 40 miles per hour (after rounding).

The DOT also explained that the city is bound by Federal law to set speed limits within plus or minus 5 miles of the actual average speed limit. Failure to set these speed limits based on the traffic studies can have various impacts including the inability to enforce speed limits using radar equipment. The ability for radar enforcement to stand up in court is in part determined by whether the speed limit has been set using these traffic studies. In addition, the DOT advised our Council that the LAPD has advised them that they will not conduct speed enforcement without the use of radar. In essence they will no longer do “speed matching” enforcement where a law officer paces a car for a distance to gauge its true speed.

As you are aware the WNC has been concerned about speeding in our Council for some time. We recently passed a resolution allocating up to \$12,000.00 to partner with you to place solar speed signs on several major Winnetka streets, one of which was Roscoe Blvd. Our hope is that these signs will remind motorists to slow down and observe the speed law. We continue to look forward to this partnership and to seeing these signs installed.

The WNC voted to support the DOT recommendation to change the speeding limit to 40 miles per hour on both Roscoe Blvd. and Sherman Way. The WNC felt that there is a very real need for speed law enforcement on these streets. Our hope is that once the speed limit has been set, the LAPD will conduct enforcement operations.

We respectfully request that you support an ordinance to allow the reposting of the speed limit in accordance with the DOT recommendations and the encouragement of the LAPD to conduct radar enforcement along these streets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "JJ Popowich".

JJ Popowich
President, WNC

Cc: Councilmember Greig Smith