



CITY OF SACRAMENTO

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DIVISION
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November 10, 1981

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Stop Signs - Commons Drive and Swarthmore Drive

SUMMARY

Councilman Pope has requested that this item be placed on the Agenda. This report gives the staff position on the issue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Commons Drive is a 4500-foot long street constructed in a curvilinear pattern through the Campus Commons development. It is the longest uninterrupted street in the whole development. Swarthmore Drive connects Commons Drive to Howe Avenue on the east and is a short dead-end street west of Commons Drive. Stop signs were placed on Swarthmore at Commons when the streets were constructed.

The Traffic Engineering office has received many requests for stop signs and undulations to control speed on Commons Drive. This street is on the priority list for undulations but they probably will not be constructed for several years. In August 1981, stop signs were placed on Commons Drive at Swarthmore under the Council's policy of utilizing stop signs for speed control. Since there were already stop signs on Swarthmore, this resulted in a 4-way stop at the intersection.

Since this intersection does not meet any of the requirements for 4-way stop control, it was decided to remove the stop signs on Swarthmore. The standard procedure for reversing stop signs at an intersection is to install the two new signs making a temporary 4-way stop. After a month or so, we remove the old signs. We do this because abruptly reversing the signs would cause a definite hazard. This procedure has been used at many locations to avoid unnecessary 4-way stops.

FILED
By the City Council
Office of the City Clerk
Cmt. to
11-24-81
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After the stop signs were removed on Swarthmore, many residents of Campus Commons contacted this office about the matter. Some of them were satisfied with the above explanation but others were not. During these conversations, references were made to a fatal accident that occurred at this location. The fatal accident occurred on December 21, 1978 north of the intersection of Commons Drive and Swarthmore Drive. It involved a pedestrian crossing at a mid-block location that was struck by a northbound vehicle driving away from the intersection in question. The accident happened at night and the driver reported that she did not see the pedestrian until it was too late to stop.

The only accident our records show at the intersection of Swarthmore and Commons involved a stolen vehicle that ran the stop sign at a high rate of speed, lost control while attempting to make a turn and hit a parked car. The driver and passenger left the scene of the accident and were picked up later.

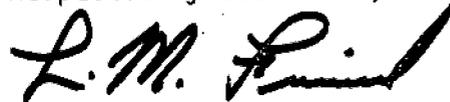
FINANCIAL DATA

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that since stop signs have been placed on Commons Drive in conformance with the Council's speed control policy and since there is no justification for 4-way stops at the intersection of Commons Drive and Swarthmore Drive, the stop sign arrangement should remain as posted.

Respectfully submitted,



L. M. Frink
Traffic Engineer

Recommendation Approved:



Walter J. Slife, City Manager

LMF/mf

November 17, 1981
District 3