

RESOLUTION NO. 06-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON BELFAST AVENUE AT FERNHEATH LANE.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Section 10-131(a) of the Costa Mesa Municipal Code, the City Council is authorized to designate and establish stop signs at intersections within the City; and

WHEREAS, 57 households in the Halecrest Hall of Fame Homeowners Association neighborhood have signed a written petition to the City requesting that stop signs be erected on Belfast Avenue at Fernheath Lane; and

WHEREAS, the Council has carefully considered the testimony of residents of the neighborhood and the City's traffic engineer, including extensive testimony about the risks and benefits of installing the stop signs requested; and

WHEREAS, this Council deems it to be in the best interest of the City that said stop signs be erected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, based on the entire record before the City Council and all written and oral evidence presented, the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa finds that there is substantial evidence justifying the requested installation of stop signs on Belfast Avenue at Fernheath Lane in the City of Costa Mesa and that the benefits of installing the stop signs outweigh any risk of injury from installation of the stop signs, based upon the following findings and evidence:

1. Staff has studied the Halecrest Hall of Fame neighborhood extensively over the past several years. Despite installation of new traffic signals, stop signs and additional speed signs and pavement markings, residents in the area testified there are frequent incidents involving traffic law violators speeding, illegally passing, and otherwise endangering the safety of the neighborhood and its many children. The neighborhood has a high concentration of young children who are particularly vulnerable to injury caused by traffic violations.

2. Belfast is a common route to the elementary school in the neighborhood. It is a long, straight stretch of road that may make it easier for drivers to increase their speed above the posted speed limit. This increased speed of vehicles on Belfast in turn makes it more difficult for vehicles turning out of the many residential streets perpendicular to Belfast to do so safely, and may distract drivers from the pedestrians, particularly children, in the neighborhood as they try to navigate these turns.

3. Providing new traffic controls on Belfast at Fernheath will reduce the speed of drivers on Belfast, ease the entry of cross-traffic from adjacent residential streets onto Belfast, and reduce overall hazards to pedestrians and bicyclists, and particularly children, in the neighborhood. The City Engineer is of the opinion that stop signs do enhance overall safety by giving drivers an assigned right of way.

4. Other appropriate traffic control measures have not adequately reduced the speed and other unsafe conduct of motorists in the neighborhood and no other options remain immediately available to address the present safety concerns in the neighborhood.

5. There is nothing unusual about the placement of the stop signs on Belfast which would create a trap for unwary motorists. Belfast is a straight road and sufficient sight distance will be maintained to allow drivers approaching from either the east or west to easily observe the stop signs with adequate time to stop safely. Staff will be directed to place the stop signs in such a way as to ensure that they are clearly visible to approaching traffic and are not obstructed by any shrubs, trees, or other obstacles of any kind.

6. While the Council understands there may be some traffic hazard created by placement of the stop signs on Belfast at Fernheath, the Council believes that the benefits of installing the stop signs outweigh any hazard created by installation. In particular, the studies of the neighborhood have demonstrated that most of the traffic in the neighborhood is neighborhood, not cut-through, traffic. The residents of the neighborhood are more likely to become aware of, and to obey, the new stop signs on Belfast, thus decreasing the overall number of vehicular conflicts and traffic violations. Many members of the neighborhood expressed support for the installation of the stop signs, while simultaneously recognizing that the stop signs cannot guarantee neighborhood safety.

6. Any potential safety hazard from the new stop signs will be minimized by painting 'STOP' legends on the pavement at the location of the stop signs and painting 'STOP AHEAD' an appropriate distance before the stop signs so as to clearly warn drivers of the existence and location of the stop signs. Staff shall ensure that flashing lights are installed on top of the new stop signs for a period of thirty (30) days to bring attention to the stop signs until drivers have adjusted to the existence and location of

the stop signs. Any additional signage as may be appropriate and necessary in the judgment of the City Engineer shall be installed to provide maximum notice to users of Belfast of the existence and location of the stop signs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2006.

ATTEST:

City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa

Mayor of the City of Costa Mesa

APPROVED AS TO FORM

City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, JULIE FOLCIK, City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution No. _____ was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the said City Council at a regular meeting thereof held on the ____ day of _____, 2006, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this ____ day of _____, 2006.

City Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the
the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa