



**Public Meeting of the Civic Council  
January 27, 2020**

**NOTICE:** Meetings of the Ladera Ranch Civic Council are held the Third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Oak Knoll Clubhouse 28192 O'Neill Dr, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694 unless otherwise publicly noticed.

**AGENDA ON THE INTERNET:** The Agenda is available through the internet at [www.lrciviccouncil.org](http://www.lrciviccouncil.org). The public may access the agenda on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

**AGENDA DESCRIPTION:** The Agenda descriptions are intended to provide members of the public a general summary of items of business to be transacted or discussed. The listed recommended actions represent recommendations made to the Civic Council, which may take any action it deems appropriate on the agenda item and is not limited in any way by the recommended action.

**Call to Order:7:03 p.m. Councilmember Stephanie Ramsey called the meeting to order**

ROLL CALL: Council Members:

Chair: Joseph Brenneman	Absent
Vice-Chair: Heather Redd	Present
Councilmember: Chenin Boutwell	Present
Councilmember: Stephanie Ramsey	Present
Councilmember: Ed Gow	Absent
Councilmember: Rosemary Scott	Present
Councilmember:	Vacant

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of our Country. Led by Councilmember Stephanie Ramsey



**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

***At this time, members of the public may address the Civic Council regarding any items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Civic Council. No action may be taken on items not listed on the agenda. Comments shall be limited to approximately three minutes per person. Any person wishing to address the Civic Council on any matters, whether or not it appears on this agenda, is requested to complete a "Request to Speak" form. The completed form should be submitted to the Civic Council Secretary prior to an individual being heard by the Civic Council. A Request to Speak Form may also be submitted for individual Presentation Items, Consent Calendar Items, and Discussion items.***

Mr. Ernest Salgado, Oak Knoll Village: Mr. Selgado is an original resident of Ladera Ranch and discussed the increase in traffic and speed throughout Oak Knoll Village. He feels that Ladera Ranch is no longer safe for pedestrians and children. Mr. Selgado mentions that Google Maps directs driver to cut through Benjamin to access Crown Valley Parkway.

Ms. Cara Giovani, Oak Knoll Village: Ms. Giovani is a newer resident who was discouraged by her realtor from purchasing her home on Dawnwood, due to traffic noise. She has witnessed two accidents in the immediate area of Dawnwood within two years. She feels that the majority of drivers are using the area as a "cut-through" and are not residents of Ladera Ranch.

Ms. Catherine Draganov, Oak Knoll Village: Ms. Draganov is concerned about speed and visibility on O'Neill, just beyond the traffic circle. She mentions there are many drivers illegally driving in the bike lane to pass drivers who are trying to turn left on Maybeck. She expressed general concern for speed on the main thoroughfares of Oak Knoll Village. She says that the Sports Park and Senior Apartment community demands a slower speed limit.

Ms. Ellen Pope, Oak Knoll Village: Ms. Pope spoke about the Chantilly crosswalk and feels that, due to the speed on Benjamin, crossing here is not safe. She is requesting a "no right on red" change at Antonio and Benjamin. She also requests additional stop signs on Benjamin.

Mr. Michael Alongi, Oak Knoll Village: Mr. Alongi is a 6 year resident of Ladera Ranch. He was involved in getting the speed limit on Benjamin reduced from 45 to 40 mph. He is concerned about the crosswalk on Chantilly. He would like a new study of vehicle count on Benjamin.

Mr. Gregg Rosen, Oak Knoll Village: Mr. Rosen is an original Ladera Ranch resident who spoke to discuss speeding problems on O'Neill Parkway.



Mr. Brian Armor, Oak Knoll Village: Mr. Armor feels that the issue is caused by non-resident drivers. He is concerned about speed, tailgating and cross-walk safety throughout the main thoroughfares of Oak Knoll Village.

Ms. Erin Sorenson, Oak Knoll Village: Ms. Sorenson is a resident who lives on Dawnwood. She discusses the need for a crosswalk at the end of the park of Dawnwood to Cox Sports Park. She was witness to a dangerous near pedestrian-vs-car collision. She requests a cross-walk in this area.

## **PRESENTATION(S)**

1. REPORT FROM THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

*Lt. Mike Harrison*

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file the report

Lt. Harrison attended the meeting to hear from residents about the Benjamin traffic issue and to answer questions from Ladera Ranch residents. He discussed the jurisdiction of CHP versus OC Sheriff Department.

2. REPORT FROM WEI ZHU

*Sr. Civil Engineer, OC Public Works*

Ms. Zhu explains that resident concerns are the result of an accumulation of issues that contribute to the traffic problems in Oak Knoll Village. She acknowledged residents' concerns about speeding and additional volume on Benjamin and O'Neill Parkway, as well as cross-walk safety.

She gave residents a synopsis of vehicle volume on Benjamin. From 2007-2013, the volume hovered around 6,000 cars per day. In 2019 a traffic study was conducted and the volume was determined to be approximately 8,000 cars per day. She states that the ideal capacity of the road is 10,000 cars per day.

With regards to speed limit, prior to 2012 the 85th percentile speed was 47 mph. In 2013 the 85th percentile speed was 44 mph. These numbers were used to reduce the speed on Benjamin from 45 mph to 40 mph. Ms. Zhu told residents that they would conduct another speed survey in 2020. These speed determinations are codified in law.

Ms. Zhu discussed the request for a crosswalk from Maybeck to Cox Sports Park. She explained that this request was denied because visibility is not good enough for residents to safely cross at this area. She will follow-up on the possibility of a stop sign in this area.

She states that OC Public Works will look into adding stop signs along Benjamin and O'Neill to help reduce the speed and volume of vehicles. She states that, if that is not feasible, she can explore the



possibility of permanent speed-monitoring signage. Additionally, they will evaluate the possibility of adding a “no right on red” sign at Antonio and Benjamin Parkway.

3. REPORT FROM SUPERVISOR BARTLETT’S OFFICE

*Yasie Goebel, Policy Advisor to Fifth District Supervisor Lisa Bartlett*

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Receive and file the report

Ms. Goebel spoke to reassure residents that the Supervisor’s office is working with OC Public Works to investigate and develop solutions to the speed, volume and safety on O’Neill and Benjamin.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion: Vice-Chair Redd Second: Councilmember Boutwell Vote: 4-0**

1. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2019 CIVIC COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve Minutes from the November 18, 2019 Civic Council meeting substantially in the form attached.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

1. CIVIC COUNCIL COMMITTEE UPDATES

(reports attached)

Traffic Committee – Councilmember Scott

Land Use & Economic Development Committee--Councilmember Ramsey

Local Governance Committee— Councilmember Ramsey

Education & CUSD Committee--Councilmember Redd

Communications & Technology Committee—Councilmember Boutwell

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 pm MEETING ADJOURNED TO March 16, 2020.**

**Traffic Committee**

In January 2020, a Change.org petition was created by Ladera Ranch resident Katie Capriotti to address the increased volume of vehicles using Benjamin Drive and O’Neill Drive as a short cut to avoid driving on Antonio to Crown Valley Parkway.



On January 16, 2020, I met with representatives of Orange County Public Works Department and Yasia Goebel, from Supervisor Bartlett's office.

Traffic Engineering has been aware over the years of the concerns involving traffic volume and traffic speed through the Ladera Ranch community. Although options are restricted by California Vehicle Code and the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, there have been some changes made. In 2013, the speed limit on Benjamin Drive was reduced from 45 mph to 40 mph. In addition, the installation of pedestrian crossing warning signs and pedestrian yield signs at the roundabout were put in place.

#### INCREASED VOLUME OF VEHICLES

Per an Orange County Traffic Committee report dated 07/18/13, the measured traffic volume that year was measured at 5,759 vehicles per day, fairly consistent with the rate measured from 2007 to 2013. The latest traffic volume survey for Benjamin was conducted in 2019 and has increased to 8,561 vehicles per day. Additionally, it appears larger commercial vehicles (tractor trailers) are also using this route and have difficulty negotiating the roundabout. (Note: per the 2013 report, it states Benjamin had a planned capacity of 6,000 vehicles per day, however, information given by OCPW states Level of Service "C" is up to 10,000 vehicles per day. I do not know if they are addressing the same criteria).

The increase in part may be due to mobile real time apps directing drivers to the shorter route. It appears many cities are having to deal with the negative effects of drivers looking for a short cut and there has been no solution in dealing with the companies. However, many residents of the nearby communities using this shortcut, would continue to use the route without using a mapping program.

#### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT NEEDED

With the start of each new school term, the traffic seems to increase in volume and it would be the best time for targeted enforcement during the morning commute. In order to make a difference, there must be a law enforcement presence. As it is, many of the commuters understand the risk in speeding and not yielding to pedestrians to be quite low.

#### CONCLUSIONS

I will continue to communicate with OCPW Traffic Engineering Department, Supervisor Bartlett's Office, and CHP to look for recommendations and solutions.

#### **Economic Development**

The Economic Development Committee represented the LRCC in January at the Ladera Rancho and San Juan Capistrano Chambers of Commerce Network in the New Year! Joint Mixer, the VIP Event at YogaSix, and the Ribbon Cutting for AFC Urgent Care. The Committee also provided a list of restaurant suggestions to Westar/RMV that would be a draw for the Ladera Ranch community and thus bring additional traffic to our retail centers from neighboring cities. In addition, the Committee corresponded with RMV in regards to the future retail/commercial development in our neighboring unincorporated area and confirmed that 2.5 million square feet will be developed in Planning Area 3 and will be a mix of commercial uses. This development will be driven by market demand and combine office, industrial, retail,



and institutional uses, including civic. The Committee is monitoring this development as it could have a direct impact on our commercial businesses and residents.

### **Education Committee**

\*Attended the monthly School Board Meeting \*Secured Superintendent Vital and Communications Director Burris to attend our March Public Meeting \*Spoke with several residents regarding concerns at their schools, offered support and made appropriate contact with District office personnel \*Assisted the Ladera Rancho Chamber of Commerce in getting school contacts for one of our newly opened businesses \*Read all District Communications to stay on top of current events in the District, upcoming events and "hot topic" issues \*Continued work on helping the District secure a crosswalk at Covenant Hills Drive and Sienna Parkway

### **Communications & Technology**

In January, the main focus of the Communications/Technology Committee was to spread the word about our vacant Council seat. This was accomplished by updating our Ethics Statement and posting it online for residents to view/download. We also posted a call for applications to the LRCC Facebook page and cross-promoted that post through the various resident groups, as well as prepared a written statement to be posted in LARMAC's weekly newsletter. This yielded three applications submitted by qualified residents.

In addition to promoting the vacant seat, the committee continued its outreach efforts via Facebook by doing the following:

- created, posted and shared an Event for the January public meeting.
- reached out to residents on the Ladera Ranch Moms Page, who expressed concerns about the speed and traffic on Benjamin and invited them to the January meeting.
- posted general information about the new Orange County voting procedures, educating residents on how they can vote in the March primary election.

Lastly, we added 18 Followers to our Facebook page, increased our Page Views by 53% over the previous month, and increased our Page Reach by 33%.

### **Governance**

The Governance Committee has arranged for Carolyn Emery from LAFCO to attend the LRCC working meeting in February and present an overview of the 2016 study and update to the Council on our future governance. Future meetings will be scheduled by LAFCO with our surrounding unincorporated neighbors to develop a synergy as we all travel a similar path.