

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
DES MOINES, IOWA**

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION 96-440
OCTOBER 7, 1996 AGENDA**

SUBJECT:	TYPE:	SUBMITTED BY:
REMOVAL OF CROSSING GUARDS— NOON CROSSING PERIOD	◆ RESOLUTION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	JIM THOMPSON TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS —

Each year a survey is taken over a two-week period of noontime crossings at intersections supervised by school crossing guards. This year, 16 of the 31 crossing guard locations had no crossing activity, and the noontime guards at these locations are recommended to be removed. The guards would remain at these locations for the morning and afternoon crossing periods.

FISCAL IMPACT —

Funding for adult school crossing guard salaries is provided for in the approved Operating Budget. The City is reimbursed one-half of the salary costs by the Des Moines Independent School District. Removal of the guard during the noon crossing period for the remainder of the school year at 16 locations is expected to save approximately \$20,000 in direct salary.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

In 1989, after extensive discussions with the elementary school principals and the Citywide PTA, the attached Policy for Adult School Crossing Guards - Noon Crossing Period was approved by the Citywide PTA Council, the Traffic Safety Committee, the City Council, and the Des Moines School Board. Based on the established policy, there were 12 locations in 1991-92, 15 locations in 1992-93, 17 locations in 1993-94, 13 locations in 1994-95, and 11 locations in the 1995-96 school year where the noon crossing guard was removed.

With the beginning of the 1996-97 school year, we have conducted daily counts of the number of students crossing during the noon period. The results of these counts are shown in the attached tabulation. In accordance with the adopted policy, the guards would be removed during the noon period at these 16 locations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>
Greenwood	37th & Grand
	35th & Ingersoll
Hanawalt	56th & Grand
Hillis	Merle Hay Road
Hubbell	42nd & Center
Jackson	SE 14th & Watrous

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>
Longfellow	Penn & Fremont
Lucas	E. 15th & Grand
Monroe	30th & Hickman
Moore	51st & Douglas
Moulton	6th & College
Oak Park	6th & Euclid
Willard	E. 30th & Dean
Windsor	63rd & University
Windsor	Merle Hay & University
Woodlawn	Lower Beaver & Douglas

At their September 17, 1996, meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved the removal of the adult school crossing guard at these locations, pending Council approval. Each school has been contacted by the police officer who supervises the adult crossing guards, advising of the proposed removal of the guard. In addition, letters have been sent to each of the 14 schools, notifying the principal that the crossing guard is proposed to be removed during the noon period and requesting that they contact the Traffic and Transportation Department if they have any additional information or concerns about the removal of the guard for the noon period. No comments or concerns have been received.

POLICY FOR
ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS
NOON CROSSING PERIOD

CITY OF DES MOINES
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
SEPTEMBER 1989

At the beginning of each school year, the following procedure is proposed for each location where an adult school crossing guard is assigned to determine whether the guard will cover all three crossing periods, or only the morning and afternoon periods.

1. **First Week of School:** Let crossing activity normalize.
2. **Second - Third Weeks:** Daily count of number of students crossing at noon period (by crossing guard, with verification by Traffic and Transportation and/or school).
3. **Fourth Week:** Make decision on noon crossing period with each school Principal.*
4. **Beginning of Fifth Week:** Crossing guard removed for noon period only as determined above.
5. **After Fifth Week:** School Principal will notify Traffic and Transportation Department of any changes in enrollment that will affect the noon crossing activity. Traffic and Transportation will reevaluate the location and make decision on the noon crossing period with the school Principal.*

* Based on an average of ONE or more children crossing unattended during noon crossing period, guard will be assigned to the noon period. If less than average of ONE, guard will not be assigned for noon period, but will remain for morning and afternoon crossing periods.

CITY OF DES MOINES
 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION
 ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD LOCATIONS
 Noon Crossing Periods
 September 1996

School	Location	08/26	08/27	08/28	08/29	08/30	09/03	09/04	09/05	09/06	09/09	09/10	09/11	Total	Average	REMOVE	KEEP
Adams	E. 29th & Euclid	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	20	1.82		X
Cattell	E. 14th & E. Hull	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	17	1.55		X
Douglas	E. 38th & Hubbell	12	11	12	15	15	12	12	14	11	12	14	15	140	12.73		X
	3800 Blk. E. Douglas	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	19	1.73		X
Edmunds	19th & Crocker	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	14	1.27		X
Findley	2nd & Hull	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1.00		X
Greenwood	37th & Grand	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.55	X	
	35th & Ingersoll	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Hanawalt	56th & Grand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Hillis	Merle Hay Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
	Hickman Road	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	8	0.73		X
Hubbell	42nd & Center	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Jackson	SE 14th & Watrous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
King	19th & Clark	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	21	1.91		X
	ML King & Clark	1	2	2	1	2	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	14	1.27		X
Longfellow	Penn & Fremont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Lucas	E. 15th & Grand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Monroe	30th & Hickman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Moore	51st & Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Moulton	6th & College	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Oak Park	6th & Euclid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Park Avenue*	SW 9th & Park	10	9	9	8	12	9	8	8	6	8	8	8	95	8.64		X
Phillips	Hubbell & Easton	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	30	2.73		X
Rice	Beaver & Adams	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	19	1.73		X
	Beaver & Urbandale	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	13	1.18		X
Wallace	E. 14th & Cleveland	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	2	2	27	2.45		X
Watrous	SW 14th/Army Post	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	24	2.18		X
Willard	E. 30th & Dean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Windsor	63rd & University	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
	Merle Hay & Univ.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
Woodlawn	L. Beaver & Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	X	
* Park Avenue school has large daycare, both ways.																	

September 25, 1996

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName», Principal
«Company»
«Address1»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «Title» «LastName»:

At their September 23, 1996 meeting, the Des Moines City Council deferred action on the removal of the noontime adult crossing guards at several locations identified as having less than one student cross during the noon crossing period. Council requested that our office contact the Principals of the affected schools prior to their final action, to determine if there are any concerns over the removal of the specific guards at the noontime period. Final action by Council is anticipated at their October 7, 1996 meeting.

The locations recommended for removal were selected based on the procedure established in the enclosed Policy for Adult School Crossing Guards--Noon Crossing Periods, which was adopted by the City Council and the School Board in 1989. According to this policy, the adult school crossing guard at «Location» would no longer be assigned to the location during the noon period. The guard would continue to work in the morning and afternoon crossing periods.

As provided in the policy, the assignment of the guard at noon would be reconsidered if you have a change in school enrollment that would cause one or more students to regularly cross at this location unattended. If such a change in enrollment occurs, please notify me in writing so that we can properly evaluate the location. In addition, the policy provides that the adult crossing guard will be assigned for all crossing periods at the beginning of each school year, with a study of the number of students crossing made each year.

Please notify our office if you do not concur with our recommendation that the guard be eliminated at «Location» over the noontime period. We will notify you of Council's action following their October 7 meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Assistant Director Gary Fox.

Very truly yours,

Original signed by JAT (ms)

James A. Thompson, Director
Traffic and Transportation

JAT/MPR/ms

Enclosure

cc: Des Moines Police Department
Des Moines Schools Transportation Supervisor



TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION
DEPARTMENT
ARMORY BUILDING
602 EAST FIRST STREET
DES MOINES, IOWA 50309 - 1881
(515) 283-4973

ALL AMERICA CITY 1949, 1976, 1981

PRINCIPALS NOTIFIED OF NOONTIME CROSSING GUARD REMOVAL

(With Letter Dated September 25, 1996)

Title	FirstName	LastName	Elementary School	Address1	City	State	PostalCode	Location
Ms.	Mary	Seckington	Greenwood	316 37th Street	Des Moines	IA	50312-4308	37th and Grand and 35th and Ingersoll
Ms.	Helen	Oliver	Hanawalt	225 56th Street	Des Moines	IA	50312-2151	56th and Grand
Ms.	Judi	Cunningham	Hillis	2401 56th Street	Des Moines	IA	50310-1184	Merle Hay Road
Mr.	David	Lingwall	Hubbell	800 42nd Street	Des Moines	IA	50312-2682	42nd and Center
Ms.	Marie	Cardmone	Jackson	3825 Indianola Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50320-1462	SE 14th and Watrous
Mr.	Michael	Schaumburg	Longfellow	1101 East 6th Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50316-2804	Pennsylvania and Fremont
Dr.	Sandra	O'Brien	Lucas	1535 Capitol Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50316-3518	E 15th and Grand
Mr.	Lawrence	Streyffeler	Monroe	2250 30th Street	Des Moines	IA	50310	30th and Hickman
Mr.	Udell	Cason, Jr.	Moore	3725 52nd Street	Des Moines	IA	50310-1799	51st and Douglas
Mr.	James	Graeber	Moulton	710 College Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50314-2893	6th and College
Ms.	Barb	Comito	Oak Park	3928 6th Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50313-3429	6th and Euclid
Mr.	Raul	DeAnda	Willard	2941 Dean Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50317-7998	E. 30th and Dean
Mr.	John S.	Johnson	Windsor	5912 University Avenue	Des Moines	IA	50311	63rd and University and Merle Hay and University
Ms.	Twyla	Woods	Woodlawn	4000 Lower Beaver Road	Des Moines	IA	50310-4839	Lower Beaver and Douglas