

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

02-516

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2002

SUBJECT:

REMOVAL OF
CROSSING
GUARDS—NOON
CROSSING PERIOD

TYPE:

**RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE**

SUBMITTED BY:

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

ITEM _____

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

SYNOPSIS —

Each year a survey is taken over a two-week period of noontime crossings at intersections supervised by school crossing guards. This year 32 of the 33 crossing guard locations had no crossing activity, and the noontime guards at these locations are recommended to be removed. Each school has been contacted in writing by the Traffic and Transportation Division, advising of the proposed removal of the guard. The guards would remain at these locations for the morning and afternoon crossing periods, and would be reinstated for the noon period if there is a change in enrollment that causes children to cross during the noon period.

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 Des Moines Independent School District. The Operating Budget currently reflects the approximate number of guards that are anticipated to be removed during the noontime period; therefore, there is no additional impact to City funding.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

In 1989, after extensive discussions with the elementary school principals and the Citywide Parent Teacher Association (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. This policy provides that the adult crossing guard be removed, during the noon period only, at each location having less than one student crossing during the noon period. If one or more students cross during the noon period, the guard will be retained for the noon period. Based on the established policy, there were 19 locations in the 1997-98 school year, 20 locations in 1998-99, 22 locations in 1999-2000, 25 locations in 2000-01, and 30 locations in the 2001-02 school year where the noon crossing guard was removed. The only student crossing at noon is related to half-day kindergarten. As more schools go to the all-day kindergarten, there are more schools each year where no students cross during the noon

time period.

With the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year, daily counts of the number of students crossing during the noon period have been taken. 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 32 locations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adams	East 29th and Euclid
Capitol View	East 15th and Grand
Cattell	East 14th and East Hull
Douglas	East 38th and Hubbell 3800 Block of East Douglas
Edmunds	19th and Crocker
Findley	2nd and Hull
Granger	SE 1st and Leach
Greenwood	37th and Grand 35th and Ingersoll
Hanawalt	56th and Grand
Hillis	Merle Hay Road Hickman Road
Hubbell	42nd and Center
Jackson	SE 14th and Watrous
King	19th and Clark Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway and Clark 19th and Forest
Longfellow	Penn and Fremont
Monroe	30th and Hickman
Moore	51st and Douglas
Morris	SW 14th and Army Post
Moulton	6th and College
Oak Park	6th and Euclid
Park Avenue	SW 9th and Park
River Woods	SE 22nd and Park
Wallace	East 14th and Cleveland
Willard	East 30th and Dean
Windsor	63rd and University Merle Hay and University
Woodlawn	Lower Beaver and Douglas Lower Beaver and Madison

At their September 17, 2002 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved the removal of the adult school crossing guard at these locations, effective Monday, September 30, pending Council approval. Each school has been contacted in writing by the Traffic and Transportation Division and also by the Police Officer who supervises the adult crossing guards, advising of the proposed removal of the guard. It has been requested of each principal that they contact the Traffic and Transportation Division if they have any additional information or concerns about the removal of the guard for the

noon period. In addition, if there is any change in enrollment or other school activity that causes children to cross during the noon period, the crossing guard would be reinstated for the noon crossing period.

Attachments