

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

03-470

AGENDA:

SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

SUBJECT:

REMOVAL OF
CROSSING
GUARDS—NOON
CROSSING PERIOD
ONLY

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

SUBMITTED BY:

JEB E. BREWER, P.E.
CITY ENGINEER

ITEM³⁶

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

SYNOPSIS —

Due to lack of use, staff is recommending that school crossing guards be removed from intersections during the noon period. Guards will remain for morning and afternoon periods and will be reinstated if changes in enrollment create a need. The City of Des Moines Traffic and Transportation Division has contacted each school, in writing, advising of the proposed removal of the guard.

FISCAL IMPACT —

The annual savings will be approximately \$800. The City is reimbursed one-half of salary costs by Des Moines Independent School District. If these removals remain in effect, the operating budget will be revised during the budget process. Likewise, if future observations indicate reinitiating a guard, similar adjustments will be made.

RECOMMENDATION —

Approval.

BACKGROUND —

In 1989, after extensive discussions with the elementary school principals and the Citywide PTA, the 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 20 locations in 1998-99, 22 locations in 1999-2000, 25 locations in 2000-01, 30 locations in the 2001-02, and 32 locations in the 2002-03 school year where the noon crossing guard was removed. Student crossings 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. This year, there are no locations where any students cross.

With the beginning of the 2003-2004 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 tabulation attached to the roll call. In

**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION**

03-470

SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

PAGE TWO

accordance with the adopted policy, the guards would be removed during the noon period at these 33 locations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Location</u>
Adams	E. 29th and Euclid
Capitol View	E. 15th and Grand
Cattell	E. 14th and E Hull
Douglas	E. 38th and Hubbell 3800 Block of E. Douglas
Edmunds	19th & 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 M. L. King 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
Phillips	Hubbell & Easton
River Woods	SE 22nd and Park
Wallace	E. 14th and Cleveland
Willard	E. 30th and Dean
Windsor	63rd and University Merle Hay and University
Woodlawn	Lower Beaver and Douglas Lower Beaver and Madison

At their September 16, 2003 meeting, the Traffic Safety Committee approved the removal of the adult school crossing guard at these locations, effective Monday, September 29, 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.

