

LONGVIEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

KEN BOTERO

KEN.BOTERO@CI.LONGVIEW.WA.US

(360) 430-0594



Don Jensen Mayor
Mary Jane Melink Mayor Pro Tem
Chet Makinster Council Member
Mike Wallin Council Member
Steve Moon Council Member
Scott Vydra Council Member

Greetings Council;

I am sorry to miss our next council meeting on October 8, 2015 as I will be with family for a special occasion. After a brief discussion with City Manager Dave Campbell I have decided to send this communication to each of you. I am not asking for anything but rather offering you an idea that I think may shed light on our traffic signal at Mark Morris Court. I will not be at the council meeting to discuss the idea, but would hope one of you would make mention of the presentation.

If we were to spend a couple of hours, during school hours, in the parking lot at the Triangle Mall and view the activity of our students, and other pedestrians, we would notice that the majority of those using the present cross walk from Mark Morris Court to the 15th. Avenue side of the Triangle Shopping Center continue left to Ocean Beach Highway. Ocean Beach Hwy, seems to be the main corridor to access several fast food restaurants to provide services to our students. Those that crossed the student cross walk as mentioned above and go right have the opportunity to utilize several other fast food locations on and around Commerce and Washington Way. As presented by staff, we also notice a traffic situation coming from Mark Morris Court onto 15th. Avenue during school hours, even with a "No Left Turn " sign posted at that entry point.

At present we have been asked to provide a traffic signal to help protect our students and pedestrians at that crossing. I have had many comments that "we don't need or want another traffic signal in Longview ". I would ask that you think about our situation and a solution for all in the community, and I do believe in protecting the safety of our students and citizens.

After noticing the activities at the Mark Morris Court and 15th. Avenue intersection we notice that our students move toward Ocean Beach Hwy. and / or the Triangle Mall at WinCo. Would it be possible to place a barricade on each corner of Mark Morris Court and 15th. Avenue with signage stating “ Not a Crosswalk Please use Ocean Beach Crosswalk “ / “Not a crosswalk Please use Commerce Avenue Crosswalk “. This would direct any pedestrian, student or citizen, to the proper crosswalk already in use. It seems that the destination can be reached without using the present Mark Morris Court & 15th. Avenue crosswalk. The barriers could be a nice chain link fencing or a highway divider block. This would also free up traffic coming to and from the Mark Morris Parking lot, which is also a problem evidenced by staff video. This would remove the crossing at the present location and direct pedestrians to use the now present crosswalks and free up traffic on 15th. Avenue. There is no reason that the speed limit from Washington Way to Ocean Beach Hwy. could not be 20 miles per hour, posted during school hours.

Thank you for listening and whatever we do lets do it together. I personally feel that we , as citizens, need to take some of the responsibility to provide that safe atmosphere. I know we have been provided with a grant for a traffic signal, but what cost do we incur over the years ? What does the future hold, we are still talking about school consolidation, even if that doesn't happen for years, the traffic signal will still be ours. If we cut back on traffic on 15h. due to a traffic signal, what effect will that have on the business at the Triangle Mall ? Just some thoughts.

I appreciate working with each of you and thank you for listening.

Gratefully
Ken Botero

(Don ,I know that this letter is public record now, and don't know if it should be sent to the Daily News or not. Please advise.)
Also, do we make motions at work shops ?