



September 15, 2020

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
County of Sutter  
1175 Civic Center Blvd  
Yuba City CA 95993

**Re: 2019-2020 Sutter County Grand Jury Report**

To the Honorable Presiding Judge:

This letter is the official consolidated response of the City of Yuba City regarding the Grand Jury Report on the report entitled Traffic Safety at Our Schools.

**Grand Jury Findings**

**F1.** One designated pickup/drop off zone is insufficient for Riverbend's 1,000+ student population during peak volume times.

Response: *For a larger school, one designated pickup/drop off zone can be problematic. Other schools with similar situations try to address this by staggering start and end of school times for the various grades.*

**F3.** No mid-block crosswalk on Stewart Road in front of Riverbend, leads to pedestrian jaywalking.

Response: *The City acknowledges the finding but has concerns with an uncontrolled mid-block crosswalk. For further discussion, please see the response to recommendation R4.*

**F4.** Drivers not following rules of the road create unsafe conditions.

Response: *The City agrees with the finding.*

**F5.** Driver compliance increased when a peace officer was present.

Response: *The City agrees with the finding.*

**F9.** There was a significant lack of street signage and curb markings adjacent to schools.

Response: *The City respectfully disagrees with the finding to the extent that the finding implies that minimum signage requirements have not been met (see Response to R8), and also agrees that more signage may be warranted if appropriate depending upon the location. In this*

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regard, the City has already prepared a Safe Routes to School Plan, dated February 2020, which evaluated each school site within the Yuba City Unified School District and made recommendations related to street signage and curb markings. As budget allows, staff will be implementing the recommendations.

## Recommendations

- R4.** A survey be conducted to add a mid-block crosswalk on Stewart Road in front of Riverbend by December 2021

Response: *The City will coordinate with Yuba City Unified School District to evaluate the installation of a mid-block crosswalk by December 2021. There are many factors to consider including:*

- *Location of the mid-block crosswalk. Just because a mid-block crosswalk is provided does not mean that pedestrians will use it. Location will be key to encourage pedestrians to utilize the crosswalk.*
- *How to direct pedestrians on the south side of Stewart Road to the mid-block crosswalk. There are no sidewalks on the south side of Stewart Road.*
- *Control of the crosswalk via a crossing guard, flashing beacon, or even pedestrian traffic signal.*
- *Lighting as there may be events that occur at night at the school in which pedestrians will be using the mid-block crosswalk at night.*
- *Cost and funding availability.*

- R5.** Yuba City Police Department to increase periodic presence of a School Resource or Peace Officer as resources permit to deter unsafe behavior by drivers by start of 2020/2021 school year.

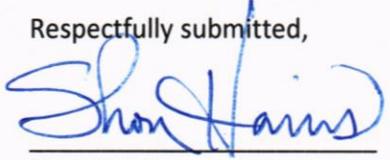
Response: *The Yuba City Police Department will increase periodic presence of a School Resource or Peace Officer as resources permit once school is back in session with in-classroom learning.*

- R8.** City of Yuba City to maintain curb painting and have clearly distinguished "No Parking" areas on the public streets adjacent to the schools by start of the 2020/2021 school year.

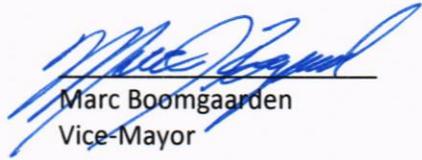
Response: *It is unclear from the report as to if this comment is related to a specific school or rather a general comment. The report notes that the Grand Jury observed parents using no parking zones for pickup and drop off of Riverbend students, in particular, on Garden Highway. There are signs posted on Garden Highway at regular intervals that state, "No Parking Any Time". City staff will evaluate this corridor once school is back in session with in-classroom learning to determine if additional signage, curb painting, and/or striping is required. Staff will also coordinate with Yuba City Unified School District by December 2021 to identify other areas that require curb painting and clearly distinguished "No Parking" areas.*

The City Council will also direct that a copy of this response be placed on file with the City Clerk.

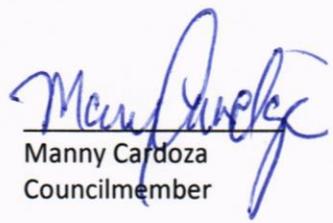
Respectfully submitted,



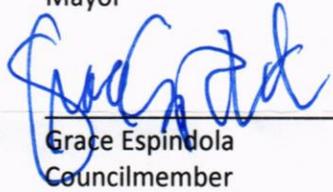
Shon Harris  
Mayor



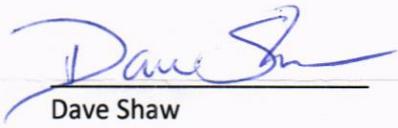
Marc Boomgaarden  
Vice-Mayor



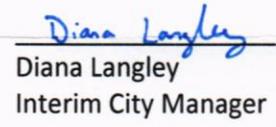
Manny Cardoza  
Councilmember



Grace Espindola  
Councilmember



Dave Shaw  
Councilmember



Diana Langley  
Interim City Manager