



Staff Report

Subject: Stop Signs on Seawind

Department/Program: Police Department

Explanation:

I am recommending two new stop signs on Seawind Drive for the purpose of slowing traffic on Seawind between the Old Ballwin Apartments and the Kensington West Apartment complexes.

This recommendation follows a safety concern surfaced by a resident who lives in the Old Ballwin Apartment Complex. The complaint indicated that a blind corner exists wherein vehicles traveling on Seawind between Ramsey Lane and Old Ballwin Road are unable to see pedestrian traffic or vehicular traffic entering or leaving the Old Ballwin Apartment parking lots, north and south of Seawind Drive. A Rockwood School District bus stop also exists at this location and residents must cross the roadway with their children in the area in question.

Seawind Drive is commonly used as a cut through between Ramsey and Old Ballwin. This area is densely populated as two apartment complexes are present and pedestrian traffic is higher than normal due to condensed residential population. Kensington West currently has 274 single family apartments and the Old Ballwin complex has 48 single family apartments.

I have viewed the intersection and the residents' concerns are valid. Installation of stop signs at the proposed locations would improve safety by causing vehicles traveling between Ramsey and Old Ballwin to stop prior to navigating the corner in question.

A search for crash reports on Seawind Drive during the past two years revealed only two reports. One accident in 2020 was documented as property damage only and a 2019 crash documented one party injured with vehicle rollover involved.

Additionally a traffic study was recently conducted by Officer Reim. The average speed for Northbound Seawind Drive is 4.4 MPH under the speed limit, and Southbound is 3.8 MPH under the posted speed limit. Traffic volume in this area is below average to average for a residential street, with approximately 168 vehicles a day per direction. The data showed the average speed was slightly higher for Southbound vehicles approaching the corner in question. The highest speed recorded during the study was 51 MPH on 01-09-2021 at 5:40 pm.

We have contacted Shaunna Wildhaber, General manager of the Kensington West Apartment Complex. We asked if the complex had an opinion regarding this issue and she stated she has recognized the same concerns and fully supports installation of stop signs in the area in an effort to increase pedestrian and vehicular safety.

Due to the small amount of vehicles utilizing Seawind, impact on vehicular traffic resulting from stop sign installation would be minimal. We have consulted with Street Director, Jim Link, and he has no objections.

Recommendation:

I am seeking Board approval to draft an ordinance for the two stop signs.

Submitted By: Chief Douglas W. Schaeffler

Date: February 22, 2021