

**NORTHWOODS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. AGENDA #3(a)2**

P.O. Box 16093

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

August 11, 2003

Mayor Foy and Town Council  
306 N. Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

RE: Traffic Calming Measures for Northwoods V

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council Members,

On behalf of the Northwoods Homeowners Association, we would like to request the introduction of traffic calming devices along Palafox Road.

Safety has been a topic of concern at our board meetings since the HOA was formed two years ago. We have tried, through our homeowners association meetings, newsletters and get-togethers, to stress the importance of driving at a safe speed through our neighborhood. We are now requesting your help – in the form of posted speed limits, stop signs and/or speed humps – to further ensure the safety of our children and families.

Our neighborhood, like many others in Chapel Hill, has many children. Our parents, especially those who live directly on Palafox and the immediate area, are very concerned about their safety. The section on Palafox that causes us the most concern is the portion between Weaver Dairy and Rowe Road. This particular stretch is wider than the rest of Palafox and appears to have become a thoroughfare for motorists who do not live in our neighborhood.

While we welcome your aid in the form of any sort of traffic calming devices, we are specifically requesting that the town install those devices that will ensure vehicles are traveling at a safe speed among our many children and families.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our request. Your assistance will help us keep our children safe and prevent the unthinkable tragedy that could very well occur. Please contact Holli Clem, our Safety Chair, if you have any further questions. Her contact information is 205 Palafox Drive, Chapel Hill, NC, 27516. Holli's telephone number is 968-6440. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Holli Clem  
Safety Chair



Julie Brenman  
President



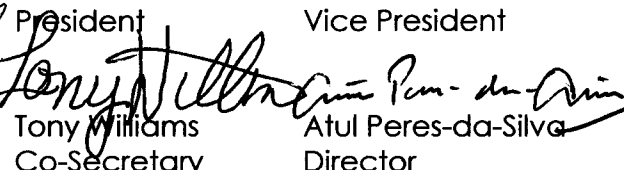
Blake Dickinson  
Vice President



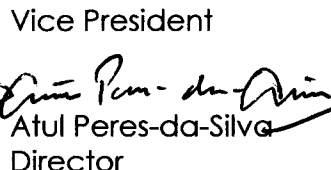
Teresa Walters  
Treasurer



Jeff McAndrew  
Co-Secretary



Tony Williams  
Co-Secretary



Atul Peres-da-Silva  
Director



Zhi Liu  
Director

Cc: Joyce Smith, Town Clerk  
Kumar Neppalli, Traffic Engineer

308 Palafox Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919-960-4947

August 9, 2003

Dear Mayor Foy,

As a resident of Northwoods Subdivison, a business owner in Chapel Hill, and especially a father of a four year old, I'm urging the Town Council to consider having the town place some type of traffic calming device on Palafox Drive.

As one drives down Palafox from Weaver Dairy there's enough slope to gain speed without accelerating on the gas. However, "most" traffic coming through our neighborhood down Palafox to Parkside is accelerating to an unsafe speed by the time they get to Rowe Road.

When I spend time in the front yard or driveway with my son, I constantly have to wave at "most" motorist going to Parkside to slow down. Some do slow down, but some don't! Now when certain motorists see me outside with my son, they slow down as they pass my house but then speed back up!!

There are far too many people speeding down this stretch of road and I feel something needs to be done to control this issue.

Please seriously consider the request from the Northwoods Homeowners Association on this issue.

Sincerely,

Charles Galloway

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Galloway", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

302 Palafox Drive  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
919 932 9871

August 7, 2003

Mayor Foy and Town Council  
306 Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council Members,

I am a resident of the Northwoods neighborhood in Chapel Hill, I am writing this letter in order to inform you of the potentially deadly situation that presently exists in our neighborhood. I live on Palafox Drive, this is the main artery that passes through our Development and connects us with Parkside. This road has become a ticking time bomb due to the speed of the vehicles that drive on it. I cannot tell you how many times either myself or my neighbors have charged out into the path of a driver who is totally ignorant to the speed they are traveling or to the danger that they are putting our children in. We are met with blank stares or in some cases verbal abuse for just asking them to SLOW DOWN. Not long ago I had my mailbox taken down by someone driving too fast and not paying attention. I cannot even imagine if my 7 year old was on the sidewalk riding her bike! We have brought this issue to the attention of the Neighborhood Association many times. We have seen the issue stressed in our neighborhood newsletters and at neighborhood gatherings, but this is not enough - people are not listening! I pray that until some action is taken that no child is either killed or injured.

The posted speed limited here is suppose to be 25 mph, feel free to come out on any afternoon and you will see cars and trucks exceeding this limit and, in some cases, probably doubling it. This is a family neighborhood there are many kids out playing, as you are aware sometimes children don't pay attention. All it takes is one second for a child to dart out in the street after a ball, at the rate of speed these people are going they could never stop in time. We need to protect our children!

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Gary Casabura  
Northwoods IV Resident

Jerald Z. Gong, MD  
203 Palafox Dr.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

August 8, 2003

Mayor Foy and Town Council  
306 N. Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Major Foy and Town Council Members:

I am writing to request installation of traffic calming devices (speed limits, stop sign, and/or speed bumps) along Palafox drive.

Our family resides at 203 Palafox drive in Northwoods V division at Chapel Hill. Since the Northwoods residential division completed approximately 1 year ago, the traffics on Parafox drive (main road of Northwoods V division) have significantly increased. Many vehicles have used this road as thoroughfare, and since Parafox drive is a relatively wider road, many vehicles are passing through with high speed. In addition, Palafox drive slightly curves in Northwoods section so it is difficult for motorists to view the entire road when passing through.

All these factors pose important safety issues for the residents of Northwoods V, particularly those live along Palafox drive. Our family has two small children (1 ½ and 4 years old). There is constant danger whenever they play in the front yard, when near and across Palafox drive. This is the area accidents waiting to happen. I strongly urge Chapel Hill town council to consider installing the speed limit devices as soon as possible so that any potential tragic events can be avoided.

Sincerely,



Jerald Z. Gong, MD  
Northwoods V resident

**CHARLES M. and AVA G. WALTERS**

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• 103 Harrison Court  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

• Telephone (919) 969-7587  
• Email: c.walters@att.net

August 9, 2003

Mayor Foy and Town Council  
306 N. Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council Members,

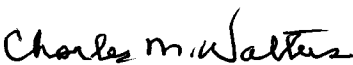
We are writing to express our grave concern about a serious problem affecting the safety of the children in our neighborhood and to ask your help to make our community safer for them. We live in a small development called Northwoods which is located west of Airport Road between the Parkside development and the new Larkspur development. We have two main entrances off Weaver Dairy Road—Palafox Drive and Rowe Road. Palafox Drive is the main road through Northwoods. It connects to the Parkside development and Rowe Road dead ends into Palafox right where it enters Parkside.

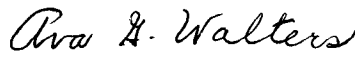
Almost from the beginning we have had a serious problem with speeders on Palafox. There are many children in Northwoods and Parkside, many of whom live on or near Palafox. All school buses load and unload on Palafox. Children visiting friends on different streets from that on which they live in Northwoods almost always have to walk to and from on Palafox. The Northwoods section of Palafox is fairly wide, but when a car is parked on the street, a speeding driver is exceptionally dangerous because they cannot see children beyond the parked car. This situation is magnified significantly on the Parkside section of Palafox because it is a lot more narrow and curves substantially, making this section of Palafox dangerous even without the parked cars that are always there.

The speeding problem on Palafox is bad already, but we anticipate that as the area continues to grow with new homes, such as in Larkspur and Parkside, and when Weaver Dairy Road is connected to Homestead Road, our problem will get even worse. We believe we already have added traffic on Palafox because it is a route into and out of Parkside and to the ball field on New Stateside and Homestead Park and points south on Airport Road.

Mayor Foy and Council Members, we need your help! We are asking you to please install speed limit signs, stop signs and speed humps on Palafox Drive to help both Northwoods and Parkside insure the safety of our children and families. You have been very responsive to the concerns of Northwoods' citizens on past issues, and we are sure you will address this problem with your usual sensitivity and responsiveness. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

  
Charles M. Walters  
Homeowner

  
Ava G. Walters  
Homeowner

August 11, 2003

Mayor Foy and Town Council Members  
306 N. Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Re: Traffic Calming Measures for Northwoods V

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council Members:

We live in 102 Harrison Court, Northwoods V subdivision and we would like to request some sort of traffic calming devices along Palafox drive, particularly in the section between Rowe Rd. and Weaver Dairy.

The reason of our request is that we have witnessed numerous speeding in excess of 35 miles per hour in this residential neighborhood ever since the stretch of Palafox Drive opened up to connect Parkwood and Northwoods V neighborhood. This represents a serious safety issue to both Parkwood and Northwoods V neighborhood.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. A positive action on your part will greatly ensure prevention of likely traffic safety hazard in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James and Donna Chang". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being larger and more prominent than the second name "Donna".

James and Donna Chang  
(919) 928-0207

205 Palafox Drive  
Chapel Hill NC  
919 968 6440

August 10, 2003

Mayor Foy and Town Council  
306 Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill NC 27516

Dear Mayor Foy and Town Council Members,

I am a resident of the Northwoods V neighborhood in Chapel Hill. I am writing this letter to inform you of a safety concern that currently exists in our neighborhood. I live on Palafox Drive, and this is the main artery that passes through Northwoods V and connects with the Parkside development. Palafox is a connector to Weaver Dairy and then out to Hwy. 86.

This is a family neighborhood and has many wonderful children. As you can imagine, sometimes they don't pay attention. In our current environment, all it will take is one second for a child to dart out in the street after a ball, and at the rate of speed these people are driving they could never stop in time.

On numerous occasions, my neighbors and I have had to literally walk into the street to slow down drivers who are traveling in excess of 40mph. This of course, is only a temporary reminder, and as time passes and hectic schedules take thoughts away from safety, the speed increases, as does the risk of injury or death.

Our homeowners association and concerned residents are lobbying for support from our Town Council. We would appreciate any priority that could be given to our safety in the form of speed bumps, stop signs or any traffic calming devices. I pray that until some action is taken that no child is either killed or injured.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Clem". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael S. Clem

Mayor Kevin Foy and Town Council Members  
306 N. Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

August 11, 2003

RE: Weaver Dairy Extension from Airport Road to Homestead Road

Dear Mayor and Members of the Chapel Hill Town Council,

I am writing about a dangerous section of road, Weaver Dairy Extension from Airport Road to Homestead Road. This 25 m.p.h. road is being traveled at speeds of 45 m.p.h. or more and is dangerous due to the homes on this road and pedestrians. Not only do people speed going down the hill by the fire station, but they pick up speed around the corner as the road approaches a four way intersection. I am asking that an all-way stop be studied and arranged at this intersection of Rowe Road (Northwoods entrance) and Old Larkspur Way (Larkspur). At this intersection the only entrance to the 86 homes in Larkspur is across from an entrance to Northwoods subdivision and is in the area where the road is wide open for speeders. Those turning left from Old Larkspur way onto Weaver Dairy Ext. will have a dangerous left turn, especially when traffic will double when this road connects to Homestead Road. Kids on bikes and pedestrians cross the road here between the two neighborhoods, as well.

In reviewing the "Town of Chapel Hill Policy for Placement of Stop Signs and Assignment of Speed Limits" I believe stop signs should be placed on Weaver Dairy Ext. based on the following: "intersection where a combination of high speed, restricted sight distance, and serious accident record indicates a need for control by stop sign(s)" and "where the interest of public safety dictates." Speed control is not the only reason for an all-way stop here as I have indicated. The road will be dangerous when it connects with Homestead Road with a doubling of traffic and continued high speeds. An all-way stop will help slow the traffic midway down this road and help people from Northwoods and Old Larkspur Way make their respective turns safely.

I contacted the Chapel Hill Police Department about the speeding in this area and they were wonderful in responding and have had a patrol car in the area on two occasions that I am aware of. However the police cannot be there all the time and this has not deterred the speeders.

I hope that the council and traffic engineers will pay attention to the safety and traffic patterns in the fastest developing residential neighborhood in Chapel Hill. We hope this area of Weaver Dairy Ext. will develop into a nice, safe neighborhood area and not another loop and major thoroughfare.

Sincerely,



Laurin Easthom  
305 Rowe Road  
CH, NC 27516  
(919)942-0001  
Laurindds@earthlink.net