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Date: Tue, 26 Aug 2014  
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Subject: Northside is not the only traffic safety hazard

Hello Susan:

Please recall that more than a year ago, my neighbor Susan and I met with you and Aaron to discuss the problem of speeding on Reeves. To summarize, our long block and wide street with parking on only one side invites drivers to race down the block on a regular basis. 'Regular' meaning multiple times every day at double (or more) the 25 mph speed limit.

It's a two-part problem: our block suffers the negative impacts from increased development on South Beverly Drive, including more restaurants and the generous permitting of more outdoor dining; and there is no effective control in place on our street to calm traffic.

It's a drag-racing free-for-all on our block, as I've reminded Aaron numerous times since our meeting (including as recently as last week). Peak problem hours are 8-10 pm, with isolated cases tapering mostly by midnight. Clearly it's spillover from South Beverly. But city answers to our complaints have been in short supply. It's a clear safety hazard. This all was underscored last night as my neighbors and I were talking outside on a fine summer evening. My neighbor's kids played; seniors strolled after dinner; and pet owners had dogs out for a walk. At 7pm two drivers raced their muscle cars down the street side-by-side at speeds I'd guess passed 60 mph. Again, side-by-side. That leaves zero safety margin for someone stepping into the street, or a kid chasing a ball, or a dog impulsively darting into the street.

I want to emphasize this as we're FED UP with this nonsense. Two drivers at 7pm drag-racing side-by-side down a residential street with a 25mph limit has put an end to our patience. Is our only option to make it a practical and political problem for City Hall? WHAT WILL THE CITY DO ABOUT THIS?

Enforcement is non-existent. When twenty minutes later I saw one of those cars, a black late-model Camaro, again circle (for the third time) at speed, I called the BHPD. "We've gotten calls but our unit is on the northside." Good for the northside. But I want to remind City Hall that Loma Vista isn't the only traffic safety issue we have in Beverly Hills. But it's gotten the attention and resources, and rightly so because the city ignored those residents too.

My own complaints about speeding on the 200 block of Reeves stretch back years. But there has been no effort to address it (but thanks for the pavement markings) and no evidence of speed enforcement. I can count on one hand the times that BHPD has even bothered to placate residents on this block with a useless speed trailer. (As I've said, a dumpster in the street would work as well.) It's an exercise we all know well. And in the intervening years between trailers? Nothing.

So I ask you, what's the city's next step to address a clear and present danger in a dense residential neighborhood that suffers increasing negative impacts from the commercial district?