



# MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # 157-2009

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: June 12, 2009

SUBJECT: 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Blackhawk Avenue Intersection

RECEIVED  
2009 JUN 12 PM 2:52  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

The purpose of this Letter to Commission (LTC) is to provide you with an update on LTC 318-2008 for a request by residents for the installation of stop signs at the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Blackhawk Avenue. According to residents, motorists speeding on 51<sup>st</sup> Street has been an increasing problem that has created a dangerous situation for pedestrians in the neighborhood, as well as made it more difficult for those traveling south on Blackhawk Avenue to enter the roadway on 51<sup>st</sup> Street. Residents believe that a three-way stop would result in traffic calming and would bring order to the intersection movements.

City staff forwarded the request to the Miami-Dade County Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Division (the County), which completed a study to evaluate existing traffic conditions and determined that it was not feasible to implement either an "All Way" stop control or traffic calming devices at this location.

The speed and volumes were measured by the County during a recent 24-hour period and the results are indicated in Table 1.

**Table 1. Existing Traffic Volumes and Speed**

Street Name and Direction	85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Speed (Miles per Hour (MPH))	Volume (Vehicles per day)
51 <sup>st</sup> Street, Eastbound	30	1162
51 <sup>st</sup> Street, Westbound	30	1168
Blackhawk Avenue, Southbound	---	29

The traffic data collected revealed that the traffic volumes on 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Blackhawk Avenue are far below the minimum required for the requested stop signs. Furthermore, a search of crash reports for the last three (3) years revealed that there were no reported crashes at this intersection. As such, the County has not approved the installation of "All Way" stop control signs at this location.

In order to install traffic calming devices, minimum traffic volumes must be greater than 150 vehicles per hour or 1500 vehicles per day; and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed must be at least 10 MPH greater than the established speed limit of the road. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed is defined as "the speed at or below which 85 percent of the motorists drive on a given road". The County did not approve installation of traffic calming devices because the traffic volume is less than 1,500 per day and the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile does not exceed the 30 MPH street posted speed limit by 10 MPH.

LTC

June 12, 2009

51<sup>st</sup> Street and Blackhawk Intersection

Page 2 of 2

### RECOMMENDATION

At this time, the County has not approved the installation of stop signs or other traffic calming measures at the intersection of 51<sup>st</sup> Street and Blackhawk Avenue. The City will continue to coordinate with the County in an effort to monitor the performance of the intersection in the future and to recommend appropriate solutions if necessary.



TH/FHB/FX/XF