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More Moraga Way Prohibitions Ahead for Lamorinda Drivers

www.lamorindaweekly.com

By Laurie Snyder

from Whitehall Drive residents, by residents from mid- to latethe Orinda City Council recently April. The footage and eight recadopted a resolution that will alter ommendations for improvement the driving habits of some area were presented to Orinda's Trafresidents on Moraga Way for at fic Safety Advisory Committee least the next year.

City from "Concerned Residents of Whitehall Drive," speeds and idents in a formal presentation in traffic volume in their area have February, and then authorized a "increased substantially since the installation of 'no left turn' signs on Moraga Way at Ivy Drive and, most recently, Southwaite Court." Drivers en route to Orinda Intermediate and Miramonte High School (MHS) have been using Whitehall as a bypass "to avoid commute traffic, traffic control lights and signs limiting access" to Ivy and Southwaite, resulting fatal situation."

n response to a November hicles, and other Whitehall traffic & Peers, which recommended studied on a temporary basis be-2011 Traffic Calming Request problems were captured on video (TSAC). TSAC discussed the According to a letter to the problems at its December and January meetings, heard from respoll of those living in the affected neighborhood regarding proposed solutions, including the installation of sidewalks, restriction of left turns onto Whitehall from Moraga to reduce cut-through traffic, and addition of speed cushions.

The poll revealed that the majority of nearby residents were in favor of a 'No Left Turn' sign. in "a hazardous and potentially TSAC then requested an evaluation of the proposed signage by

against installing left-turn prohibitions on Moraga Way at Whitehall Drive.

In May TSAC weighed that recommendation against the concerns of Whitehall Drive residents and support from the police chief for a No Left Turn sign before voting unanimously to ask the City Council to direct staff to install signage at Whitehall and Moraga Way for pedestrian safety and to mitigate local speeding.

Several residents spoke in favor of the proposed turn prohibitions at the Council's most recent meeting. "They'll do anything to get to school," said one. Another described the behavior of students heading to MHS as "erratic."

Council Member Sue Severson worried about unintended negative impacts to Moraga Way, A near collision, speeding ve- the City's traffic consultant Fehr and urged that the changes be

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fore taking any permanent action.

The Council agreed, voting unanimously to add the signage and directing TSAC to report back in a year with an evaluation. Beginning at the start of the new school year, U-turns and left turns onto Whitehall from Moraga Way will be prohibited on school days from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Drivers should start seeing the new signage August 22.

Delehunt Makes Three

Linda Delehunt, a 32-year Orinda resident, has announced that she will challenge incumbents Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer in the November 2012 Orinda City Council election. All three filed papers and qualified to be on the ballot by the August 10 deadline, according to City Clerk Michele Olsen. Two seats are open.

Arguments for and against the proposed sales tax increase measure. also slated for the November ballot, have been filed as well. Rebuttals are due to the City Clerk's office August 17. L. Snyder



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