



October 20, 2019

Vivian Moreno
Councilmember, District 8
City of San Diego

Dear Councilmember Moreno,

Thank you for your memo dated September 10, 2019, calling attention to the lack of enforcement of the resolution prohibiting heavy-duty commercial truck traffic on residential streets in Barrio Logan. As you note, this resolution was unanimously approved by the San Diego City Council on December 10, 2018, following decades of complaints and suffering by the residents of the community. These residents have repeatedly asked for relief from the City; however, their requests have gone unheeded resulting in continued noise, pollution and threats to public safety and public health.

As the result of demands from residents and Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), in 2005, the City of San Diego adopted a resolution prohibiting heavy-duty truck traffic on some residential streets in Barrio Logan. This resolution resulted in some signage installations but little enforcement as the problem worsened. Again, EHC and residents called for action by the City resulting in the 2018 resolution which added all residential streets in the neighborhood as prohibited for truck traffic. City staff from the Transportation & Storm Water Department also noted that they would establish a truck route on Harbor Drive, an action that did not require approval by the City Council. After adoption of the resolution, new signs were installed on prohibited streets and 'truck route' signs were installed on Harbor.

Residents were encouraged by these actions and were hopeful that truck traffic near their homes and schools would be significantly reduced. Unfortunately this has not occurred. Since adoption, residents have recorded many hours of video on prohibited streets and noted hundreds of violations by non-compliant trucks. Volunteers have monitored these streets and noted the trucks in their neighborhoods. In one session of only 30 minutes, 14 non-compliant trucks were noted on Boston Ave. On August 9, 2019 a heavy duty truck travelling on Main Street lost control crashing into power lines and fire hydrants. The truck burst into flames and came to rest just a few feet from a home with children sleeping inside.

EHC and residents attended the October 16, 2019 meeting of the Barrio Logan Planning Group where the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) provided a report on enforcement of the resolution and we have reviewed the presentation that will be provided to the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee on October 23, 2019. Overall, we are discouraged and outraged by the lack of enforcement from SDPD to date and the weak and negligible plans proposed in their report. The residents have spoken clearly and specifically about their needs. SDPD simply needs to dedicate existing resources to the issue and provide consistent and effective enforcement.

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EHC requests the committee to direct SDPD to immediately increase enforcement by taking the following actions:

1. **Provide consistent monitoring** in the following locations. These locations have been noted by residents as heavily trafficked by non-compliant trucks and should be a starting place for monitoring and enforcement:
 - a. Boston Avenue
 - b. Main Street
 - c. Cesar Chavez Parkway
 - d. Beardsley Street
 - e. At the I5 off-ramp on Beardsley
 - f. Newton Street
 - g. Sigsbee Street
2. **Educate truckers:** The Port of San Diego and the San Diego Convention Center have both provided fact sheets to truckers who utilize their facilities. While this education is appreciated, it needs to be backed up by SDPD. SDPD should conduct outreach to these truckers by convening meetings of truckers, conducting 'truck-to-truck' outreach visits as truckers are parked waiting for pick-up or drop off of their loads and issuing warnings to those truckers who are being stopped for the first time.
3. **Issue citations:** SDPD reports only 49 citations during 2019. As one resident stated, " you could issue 49 citations in one week outside my home." This level of enforcement is clearly inadequate and is not providing an effective deterrent to truckers from using these residential streets.

EHC also suggests that the Committee direct staff to research truck route and truck prohibition rules in other municipalities. The City of San Diego's code is far weaker than other cities and could be improved through providing guidance that is more specific to both the trucking community and SDPD.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your consideration on October 23.

Sincerely,

Diane Takvorian
Executive Director

Cc: Councilmember Monica Montgomery, Chair
Councilmember Barbara Bry, Vice Chair
Councilmember Chris Cate
Chloe Triplett, Council Committee Consultant