



## Additional Documents List City Council Special Meeting July 27, 2022

Item No.	Agenda Item Description	Distributor	Document
	<b>Public Comments for Item 1, Item 2 and Item 3</b>	Christina Muñoz, Deputy City Clerk	Attached are public comments.
	<b>Public Comments for Item 2 from the July 20, 2022 Regular City Council Meeting</b>	Christina Muñoz, Deputy City Clerk	Attached are public comments.

**Public Comment  
Item #1**



July 20, 2022

Public Comment Regarding Agenda Item 29

Care First applauds the City of South Pasadena for being a regional leader by implementing a mobile crisis response van alongside other San Gabriel Valley cities. We recognize that this as an important first step away from deploying law enforcement to address non-violent crises involving mental health, substance use, and people experiencing homelessness.

We have feedback regarding several components of the program, as currently contemplated.

First, it appears that the existing plan is a co-response by the mobile crisis van *and* public safety officers (police and/or fire) for all 911 calls for non-violent mental health and/or homelessness. Co-response even for non-violent dispatches defeats the purpose of implementing a mobile crisis response van. Many unhoused people and people experiencing mental health problems distrust law enforcement for a variety of reasons, including for example, past negative experiences, the coercive power of the police to cite, arrest, and commit individuals, and the possibility that an interaction with the police will be violent (*e.g.*, a welfare check that resulted in the shooting and killing of Vanessa Marquez). Changing that dynamic and building trust with unhoused people in our community will require, in many cases, a fresh introduction of the crisis response team independent from law enforcement. **Care First asks the City to deploy the crisis response van without law enforcement presence for all non-violent incidents.**

Second, the hours of the mobile crisis van will likely be too limited for the needs of South Pasadena. Care First's review of the dispatch records produced by the City (aka the Media Log) reflect 2,239 calls for a welfare check between 2017-2021, which is roughly 37 calls per month for that period. The dispatch records also show about 17% of all dispatches are nuisance-related, including calls for suspicious persons, suspicious circumstances, and disturbances. A diminishingly small percentage of the dispatch activities respond to calls reporting violent crime. Less than 1% or only 1,223 dispatches over a five year period (2017–2021) were responses to violent incidents. In other words, the needs of the South Pasadena community for mental health welfare checks and responding to non-violent mental health, substance use, and homelessness is likely to exceed the availability of services given that the crisis response van will only spend 10 hours per week in South Pasadena. **Care First asks the City to use the \$200,000 it allocated for the mobile crisis van to bolster services in our City.**

Finally, the staff memo discusses the need for objective metrics to study the success of the mobile crisis van, but does not specify what those metrics will be. Care First cautions the City that expecting the mobile crisis van to be able to connect the unhoused residents in our community with services—in addition to responding to mental health crises and substance use crises in three cities—may set the program up for failure. The formation of trusting



relationships and ongoing case management for unhoused individuals is a challenging job unto itself. It is distinct from 911 dispatch for emergency mental health crises.<sup>1</sup> **We ask that you involve Care First in determining what metrics the City will use to evaluate the success of the mobile crisis van.**

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue, and for considering our proposals to make the program stronger.

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<sup>1</sup> More broadly, until the region and City make meaningful investments in affordable housing, there is nowhere for unhoused people to go but the streets, parks, libraries, buses and trains. The mobile crisis van cannot work miracles in a severe housing shortage.

**Public Comment  
Item #2**

**From:** [susan sulsky](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Item #2: REVIEW OF RESIDENT REQUEST FOR ADDITION OF A SECOND CROSSING GUARD AT THE INTERSECTION OF HUNTINGTON DRIVE AND MARENGO AVENUE DURING THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR  
**Date:** Monday, July 25, 2022 5:58:54 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am in favor of a second crossing Guard at the Intersection of Huntington Drive and Marengo Avenue during 2022-2023 School Year. I was the cross guard at this location for a number of years. Cars disregard the fact that there are children attempting to cross Huntington Drive, and proceed to turn right into the children on both sides of the street. Often they are parents trying to drop their children off, and turn onto Marengo with callous disregard for those walking. One guard is not enough to hold back the cars. The Middle School in San Marino has two guards at the Huntington Drive cross street, which is also a four lane street. If the Council had acted on a previous suggestion to post "No right turn on red during peak crossing hours", it would have been a cost-effective way to handle the situation. They chose once again not to act. Therefore, I see no other solution than to add an additional crossing guard.

Susan Sulsky  
2013 Meridian Avenue

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Ella Hushagen](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Diana Mahmud](#); [ezneimer](#); [Michael Cacciotti - Personal](#); [Jack Donovan](#); [Jon Primuth](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment agenda item 2  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022 11:20:20 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Councilmembers,

In order to meet the community's request for a second crossing guard at Huntington and Marengo, the City will have to increase the contract for crossing guard services by \$19,570.

Please consider that this is less than:

- the City's purchasing authority without City Council approval;
- one day of SPPD's operations in FY 2022-2023 ( $\$10,684,973 / 365 = \$29,273$  per day)
- four days of legal services in FY 2022-2023 ( $\$2,364,071 / 365 = \$6,476.90$  per day)
- the one-year lease of 12 copiers that was on last week's consent calendar.

Installation of a second crossing guard at the busy intersection will make kids and parents safer when they walk to and from school -- undoubtedly, a worthwhile expenditure that comports with the City's goals of promoting community, safe streets, alternative forms of transportation, and carbon neutrality.

Commissioning a traffic study and creating a citywide crossing guard policy are great ideas. But, please add a crossing guard in the meantime. **Do not make students and parents risk their lives for another school year** while undertaking these measures.

Thank you.

Ella Hushagen

**Public Comment  
Item #3**



**From:** [Michael Siegel](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** comment on item#3 - Housing Element  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022 9:20:00 AM

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Councilors,

I am saddened to see our city's inaction on both the housing element and housing crisis we are currently in. We bill ourselves as a progressive city, with empathetic values of inclusion, yet due to our zoning and housing regulations, we deny anyone without extraordinary means from moving here and enjoying the benefits of our amazing city.

We are not a "built-out city", we are just a city that lacks imagination. We have something that most cities in LA County would kill for, a metro stop that takes our residents to employment centers in Downtown and Pasadena just minutes away. Yet we refuse to surround this stop with vibrancy, a sense of place, and density.

We only have ourselves to blame, we've only built a handful of multifamily units in the past 15 years, and we've made it impossible for anything to be built with the myriad of restrictions we have put in place, affordable or not.

In order to pass the element and do our part in this housing crisis, we need to:

- 1) Release Placeworks of their contract and recoup any money paid for a dishonest housing element.
- 2) Rezone the entire city. As I walk through single-family neighborhoods across this city, they are dotted with quadplexes, 8-plexes and other multifamily housing. They are already integrated into the fabric of the community and do not diminish the "character" of the single-family neighborhood. We can and must make it possible to build more in all parts of our city, and not just relegate zoning change to the outer most areas.
- 3) Get rid of height restrictions on our major thoroughfares. Fair Oaks and Huntington are suited for 5 story, and near the metro in the downtown specific plan we should have taller dense housing to complement a walkable, transit oriented community. Do we really think the 4 story brownstones of Brooklyn wouldn't fit the community character of this area perfectly?
- 4) Relax restrictions that are making development harder, more time consuming and more expensive.
- 5) Embrace change

Thank you for your consideration

Mike, 91030

**From:** [Ed Elsner](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Item 3, Special Meeting, July 27, 2022  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 27, 2022 11:37:30 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Cacciotti, Mayor Pro Tem Primuth, and Councilmembers Donovan, Mahmud, and Zneimer:

Thank you for your consideration of Item 3 on tonight's special meeting agenda relating to the housing element.

It is important to keep in mind that HCD does not have authority to certify the housing element unless and until the City completes the rezoning programs set forth in whatever housing element the City adopts, whenever that rezoning may occur.

This is because the City will not be able to (1) adopt a housing element and (2) obtain HCD's finding that the adopted element is in substantial compliance with the housing element law, by the October 15, 2022, deadline. See AB 1398 and SB 197.

HCD summarizes this restriction on its authority as follows: "Jurisdictions cannot be found in compliance with Housing Element Law until all necessary rezones are complete if they fail to adopt a housing element found in compliance within one year of their 2021 statutory housing element due date."

The staff report for the housing element item on the agenda for last night's special meeting of the Planning Commission recognizes that the City will not be able to meet the October 15, 2022, deadline: "The recent legislation that allows some jurisdictions to delay zoning code implementation will not be applicable to South Pasadena."

"Rezoning" for purposes of a housing element's rezoning program includes "adoption of minimum density and development standards." Gov't Code § 65583(c)(1)(A).

Height limits are codified as development standards (South Pasadena Code

§ 36.300.040), and as such would appear to be within the language of section 65583(c)(1)(A) if included as a component of a rezoning program designed to achieve minimum densities.

Adding all of this up, if a 2024 ballot measure modifying the City's 45-foot height limit is included in the housing element's rezoning program, it appears that the housing element could not be certified by HCD as substantially compliant until at least the 2024 general election, assuming the ballot measure is approved.

If not approved, certification would be delayed beyond November 2024 until the City completed a modified rezoning program that met applicable housing element guidelines and standards.

The comments made by the Planning Commission last night about the timing and content of a height limit ballot measure and the necessity and importance of robust community outreach were thoughtful, sensible, and practical, and in an ideal world this is how any ballot measure affecting the height limit should be approached.

However, given the current statutory environment, the downside of the approach is that the City would remain out of compliance with the housing element law until at least November 2024, possibly longer, with all the negative consequences flowing from that status.

(One of the negative consequences would be exposure to litigation, which could result in a court-ordered resolution of these issues before the November 2024 election.)

To be clear, the intent of this public comment is not to endorse or oppose any particular strategy, but to highlight considerations to be weighed if the City Council decides to pursue a strategic relaxation of the City's height limit in order to obtain certification of the housing element.

Thank you,

Ed Elsner

**Emailed Public Comment from  
July 20, 2022  
Regular City Council Meeting**

**From:** [tony fong](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:04:54 PM

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Hello,

My name is Tony Fong and the homeowner of 1934 Marengo. Adding a second crossing guard on Marengo and Huntington makes sense for the safety of the children and pedestrians. It is a busy intersection and there are a lot of walking transactions.

Thank you for your time.

Tony Fong

**From:** [Sandy Shannon](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Additional Crossing Guard on Huntington & Marengo  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:29:33 AM

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Hello,

My name is Sandy Shannon and I am a resident on La France Avenue. Every weekday I walk my 8 year-old and 5 year-old to school, and we cross Huntington Avenue. I have seen countless times cars turning left from Marengo while someone is in the crosswalk. This year someone was turning right from Huntington onto Marengo and almost hit my children. Thankfully I was there to pull them back, but they had the right of way with the cross signal, and this incident could have ended very badly. I also volunteered as the crossing guard a few mornings at the end of the school year, and witnessed many drivers not following the traffic laws.

I am in a fortunate position that I work from home and therefore am able to walk my children to school each day. However, many children walk themselves to school in the morning, and don't have that extra set of parental eyes keeping a watch on all the cars in the area. Huntington Avenue is a major corridor to the LA area, particularly Downtown Los Angeles. People are rushing to work in the morning, and this puts our youngest South Pasadena residents at risk.

We moved to South Pasadena because of the strong community and excellent public education system, and safety when walking to school is a basic tenet of those values. Please add the second crossing guard at Marengo & Huntington, before an accident happens that could have been so easily prevented.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Shannon

**From:** [Cassie Terhune](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Crossing Guard at Marengo & Huntington - Agenda Item 29 for Wednesday 7/20/2022  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 4:52:35 PM

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Hello Council Members & fellow South Pasadenans,

We are hoping you will take our need for a second crossing guard at Marengo & Huntington by the first day of the 2022-2023 school year as seriously as we do. We live south of Huntington and our two high schoolers have to cross this intersection to get to school. Our children have experienced too many close calls, and we no longer let them cross there during school rush hour, which is a sad statement about our community and how we care for our students. Cars crossing onto Huntington during the walk light either do not see the pedestrians or do not care. We have witnessed two different neighbors at two different times almost be mowed down, small children and strollers in tow. It is terrifying and ridiculous.

We do not have time to wait for a traffic study. One certainly needs to be done, but we absolutely cannot allow our children and caregivers to be left in the present precarious situation while we wait. There are three public schools whose zone of attendance includes our neighborhood, and that intersection is the safest way we have to cross. We must make the safety of our school children a priority.

Please do not let my friends and our children get hurt or killed while we wait on action to be taken. A second crossing guard is an easy solution, and we need one in place on August 11. Please act for our safety.

Sincerely,  
Cassandra & Andrew Terhune

**From:** [Kristen Kuhlman](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Crossing guard at Marengo/Huntington  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 10:15:46 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

My kids and I had yet another close call last month walking to summer school at the intersection of Marengo and Huntington Drive. Many of the drivers making a right turn from Huntington to go south on Marengo don't slow down to look for pedestrians stepping into the crosswalk before they make their turns. Visibility is also very poor at the southwest corner of the intersection as cars are typically parked all along the south side of Huntington. Cars cannot see us standing on the corner waiting to cross.

What would help? A crossing guard standing on that corner wearing a bright yellow vest holding a large stop sign to get drivers' attention before we step into the street. Please consider providing an additional crossing guard to help our kids and parents cross safely on both sides of the street!

Thank you,  
Kristen Kuhlman



**From:** [Ella Hushagen](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: PSC Public Comment Re: Second Crossing Guard at Marengo & Huntington  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 12:01:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [2022-06-13 comment re crossing guard Marengo and Huntington.pdf](#)

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Hello,

I am submitting this public comment signed by 113 community members, as well as some public comments by children who live south of Huntington, which was previously submitted to the Public Safety Commission. Please include it in the agenda packet for **agenda item 25**.

Thanks!

Ella Hushagen

June 13, 2022

Public Comment Re: Second Crossing Guard at Huntington Dr. and Marengo Ave.

Dear Public Safety Commissioners,

We submit this comment to request a second crossing guard at the intersection of Huntington Drive and Marengo Avenue.

In the past school year, there have been a number of near misses, wherein drivers turning onto Huntington from Marengo have almost hit children and adults. A mom had to aggressively flag down a driver to prevent him from colliding with her 9-year-old kids, on their way to school. A dad had to essentially push his child out of the way of a turning vehicle. On Friday, May 13, 2022, a father heading home from dropping off his kids was nearly struck by a speeding car turning left onto Huntington. The car swerved wildly to avoid striking him.

The intersection serves many Marengo Elementary and South Pasadena Middle and High School students who live south of Huntington. The crossing guard stationed at the southeast corner of the intersection is attentive and reliable. But this is a large, busy intersection, with six lanes of traffic to cross. Commuters treat Huntington like a highway, driving at very high speeds. There are serious risks to student pedestrians and their parents that one crossing guard cannot mitigate alone.

The City's current contract for crossing guard services is \$177,716 per year—less than two percent of the \$10 million South Pasadena Police Department annual budget. The addition of one crossing guard at Marengo and Huntington to promote the safety of our students and pedestrians is reasonable and doable.

At a similar intersection with Huntington near Valentine Elementary in San Marino, the city has stationed two crossing guards.

South Pasadena is a wonderful city for walking, with its tree-lined streets and friendly neighbors. We want to encourage our students to walk by creating a safe environment for it. **We request that you recommend that City Council direct SPPD to station a second crossing guard at Marengo and Huntington.**

Signed,

1. William D. Allen, MD
2. Alexis Altounian
3. Bree Arnall-Hazard
4. Elizabeth Arnall-Hazard
5. Soo Baek
6. Eva Bana Romero
7. Frederic Bana Romero
8. Amy Betts
9. James Boyle
10. Kristin Boyle
11. Candice Carter
12. Laurie Chatham
13. Francis Cholko
14. Frank Chu

15. Danelle Courtice
16. David Courtice
17. Owen Ellickson
18. David Evans
19. Sally Evans
20. Jessica Fang
21. Bruce Finstead
22. Melissa Finstead
23. David Foster
24. Katie Gallagher
25. Noel Garcia
26. Armi Gatdula
27. Julie Giulioni
28. Sieu Ha
29. Leslie Hanway
30. Elizabeth Hernandez
31. Elizabeth Hong
32. Wallace Huang
33. Ella Hushagen
34. Kyle Imoto
35. Paula Imoto
36. Chris Kan
37. Jeff Kuhlman
38. Kristen Kuhlman
39. Shirley Lac
40. Julius Law
41. Judy Lee
42. Mindy Lee
43. Shannon Lee
44. Tony Lockhart

45. Deborah Louie
46. Irene Miller
47. Leonard Mlodinow
48. Lisa Montano
49. Jill Nemiro
50. James Park
51. Sarah Perez-Silverman
52. Ken Rudman
53. Shari Sakamoto
54. Shannon Scavo
55. Peter Schubin
56. June Scott
57. Edward Seo
58. Mike Shannon
59. Sandy Shannon
60. Peggy Shirreffs
61. Michael Siegel
62. David Sifuentes
63. Joyce Subject
64. Priscilla Swantner
65. Quinton Swantner
66. Andrew Terhune
67. Cassandra Terhune
68. Vanessa Valencia
69. Lulu Wang
70. Patrick Wright
71. Changhuei Yang
72. Alice Yung
73. Jason Zahn

Name	Email (optional for updates)
ALVARO Maldonado <i>and</i>	[REDACTED]
Hung Jennifer	[REDACTED]
Angie Beth Lombardi Castillo	[REDACTED]
ANDREW MACLEAN	[REDACTED]
STEPHANIE MACLEAN	[REDACTED]
Ayumi Nagata	
JIM TRUONG	
MEVIN DEA	
Andrus POVIAS V.	[REDACTED]
Cindy OKITA	[REDACTED]
Heather Blund	[REDACTED]
Michael Keller	[REDACTED]
Hazen Schnell	[REDACTED]
Alex Lu	[REDACTED]
Ai Rong Wei	
Karen Tamis	[REDACTED]
Lida Aletzi	[REDACTED]
RYAN ROBERTS	[REDACTED]
Ines KNO PERSCHKE	[REDACTED]
SCOTT TOSHIMA	[REDACTED]

GMAIL

Name	Email (optional for updates)
Luis Villa	
Tom Li	[REDACTED]
KEVIN CRUST	
ADAM HAVVITS	
Emily T. Porter	[REDACTED]
Tom Tan	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Craig Ressinger	[REDACTED]
Edmund Yip	[REDACTED]
JACK WAN	[REDACTED]
Alex L	
James Boyle	
Ann Shah	
Christina Ghaly	
ALEX MONTES	[REDACTED]
KYLE CHRYSAL	
Jennifer Flint	[REDACTED]
Youn Sook Kim	[REDACTED]

My name is Jack, and I am in 5th grade. I would like a second crossing guard at the Huntington / Marengo intersection. People look at their phones all the time, speed, and blow through red lights. This is why another crossing guard would be helpful.

Hi, my name is Claire Kuhlman. I am going to be a fifth grader. I live on La France Ave, so I walk across Huntington every day to get to school. One time I was about to step into the street when a car came zooming around the corner. My mom had to pull me away, so I wouldn't get hit. I would feel much safer if there was a second crossing guard to help me cross the busy streets. Thank you!



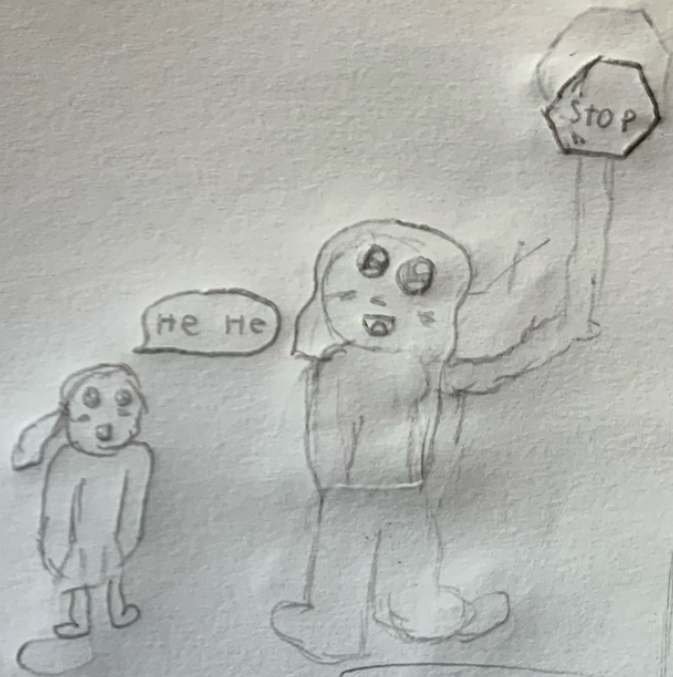
I think its important to have  
a crossing gaurd because if we  
dont kids could get run over.

Love,  
Finley





Hi I am Tallulah courtice  
I am a 4th grader. I  
walk to school every day  
and I dont feel safe when  
I cross the road.  
So if you're ok with this  
we can get another crossing  
guard so we dont get  
hit on Marango or Huntington  
street. Maybe if it were  
safer my parents would let  
me walk to school on my  
own.



Hi. My name is Lucinda Grace Ellickson. I am a rising 4<sup>th</sup> grader at Marengo Elementary.

I live on the west side of Marengo, so it's the quickest route for me to get to school. I think it'll be a lot safer once we are promised a second crossing guard for the Marengo and Huntington intersection so that we can stop fretting about getting run over by a truck.

**From:** [Ji-Lan Zang](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Crossing guard at Huntington and Marengo  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 4:45:12 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

We are parents of a Marengo Elementary student who cross the Huntington and Marengo crosswalk every day during the school year. We are strongly in support of having a second cross guard at this intersection, as we see many children (some walking, some by bike) who are at danger while crossing the street with vehicles that are turning left and disregard the pedestrian/biker right of way. One crossing guard is simply not enough, as children tend to cross on both the east and west sides of Huntington. The single crossing guard is often stationed at the west side of Huntington, but she is unable to assist the children crossing on the east side of the same street.

Thank you!

Ji-Lan Zang and Wallace Huang, parents of Lucas Huang (Marengo Elementary first grader).

**From:** [Julie Winkle Giulioni](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Ela Hushagen](#)  
**Subject:** Let's keep our kids safe!  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:06:43 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please share this as a public comment related to the crossing guard agenda item.

Huntington Drive is a major thoroughfare that carries an ever-increasing volume of traffic that presents a very real danger to local children and parents alike. The configuration of the intersection teamed with the number and speed of vehicles as well as frequently distracted drivers demands more than one crossing guard during peak student transit times. The small incremental increase in expense to the City is insignificant when compared to potential injury or loss of young lives. Let's not force parents to exacerbate traffic and parking problems around Marengo during drop off and pick up. Let's allow kids and families to walk to and from school... and to do it safely. Thank you for your consideration.



**Julie Winkle Giulioni**  
Author, Virtual /Live Keynote Presenter, Inc.'s Top 100 Leadership Speakers

818.219.7988 | [www.juliewinklegiulioni.com](http://www.juliewinklegiulioni.com)



**From:** [BA Finstead](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Marengo and Huntington Drive Intersection  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 12:03:21 PM

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My wife Missy and I have witnessed several “near misses” of cars narrowly missing pedestrians lawfully crossing this intersection. Given the number of unaccompanied grade school children who use this intersection, we believe it is imperative to add an additional crossing guard there. we understand that it would be wise to have a comprehensive approach to the use of crossing guards city wide, but such a need for a general approach should in no way keep the city from adding an additional crossing guard to this intersection immediately.

Bruce “BA” Finstead  
Missy Finstead

**From:** [Paula Imoto](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** marengo/huntington crossing guard  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:46:58 AM

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Hi... I live south of Huntington and occasionally walk my kids (8 and 6 years olds) to Marengo Elementary School. Over the past two years, I have witnessed many "close calls." Mostly, the drivers are distracted on their phones and/or fail to see pedestrians walking. Some are driving way over the speed limit and cannot stop in time for pedestrians. I have also seen a middle schooler boy walking alone almost being run over by a car that ran a red light. For the safety of our students, families, and pedestrians, it is crucial and essential to add a second crossing guard for this busy intersection before a tragic accident occurs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Paula Imoto

**From:** [Edward Seo](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Agenda Item #25 - Request for Crossing Guard  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:46:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [SPas Public Hearing Comment 07.20.22 - Crossing Guard - Edward Seo.pdf](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of South Pasadena. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers:

My name is Edward Seo, and I am an attorney at the largest law firm in California. I am the managing partner for the Korean Business Litigation Group in the Los Angeles office. I have represented municipalities and various school districts in California, including LAUSD. I have also litigated cases involving traffic control at busy intersections. I am currently an adjunct professor at USC Gould School of Law as well. I make this statement in support of an additional crossing guard at the intersection of Huntington Dr. and Marengo Ave. in South Pasadena (hereinafter referred to as "subject intersection").

Perhaps more germane than any other family, I own the only single-family home directly at the corner of the subject intersection. I am acutely aware of the traffic accidents that occur mere yards from my property. In fact, a speeding vehicle traveling on Huntington plowed through my property at the corner of Marengo where my kids cross the street to go to school. If not for one of my trees (which is now permanently bowed from the impact), the vehicle would have caused catastrophic damage. This is because of the sheer speed at which these vehicles travel at the subject intersection. Luckily no people were standing at the intersection at the time.

I regularly walk my two children, ages 7 and 8, to Marengo Elementary. In order to do so, we must cross Huntington, a six-lane major road with two additional turning lanes at the stoplight, totaling eight lanes at the intersection. I'm not aware of any other intersections here with that many lanes, with probably the fastest speeds of travel in all of South Pasadena.

Less than two months ago or so, I spoke with a motorcycle police officer at the subject intersection while walking my children to school. I asked him how fast the cars were traveling. The officer told me he tagged someone going in **excess of 80 mph** at the subject intersection during school crossing time. Any pedestrian accident at that speed would result in serious injury or death. Police are aware this speed is the norm rather than an aberration.

The intersection is particularly dangerous not only because of its width and fast speeds, but also because there is no left turn signal from Marengo onto Huntington. Commuters in the morning are in a rush, and oftentimes try to 'floor it' on the yield light. Unfortunately, that is the exact time our children need to cross Huntington on Marengo. Many drivers think they

can squeeze by while pedestrians are still crossing on the same side they are turning. This is incredibly dangerous and the precise reason why a second crossing guard is necessary for the health, safety and welfare of our children walking to school. Any traffic control engineer would tell you having a crossing guard would significantly reduce such unsafe turns, as well as right turns on the red light. Construction sites regularly use flaggers for this same reason, and it is proven to reduce accidents and death.

For the foregoing reasons, the city is on notice of the subject intersection, and we respectfully request a crossing guard during the limited school times as it is the most efficient way with the least amount of burden to protect our children. Thank you.

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Edward W. Seo



**From:** [Michael Siegel](#)  
**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** public comment - agenda item 29 for 7/20  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 19, 2022 11:16:49 AM

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For Agenda Item 29:

Councilmembers, please vote to use police funds to install a crossing guard at Marengo and Huntington beginning at the start of the school year this August!

Huntington is basically a freeway. Regardless of the speed limit, cars are regularly passing 60mph. As an adult I often feel unsafe crossing Huntington, let alone with small children. For the safety of the community, before someone gets seriously hurt, please vote to install a crossing guard to start the school year.

Thank you for your consideration!

Michael Siegel

**From:** [Alexis Altounian](#)

**To:** [City Council Public Comment](#)

Public Comment RE: Agenda Item # 29 on Wednesday

**Date:** 7/20 Wednesday, July 20, 2022 11:27:13 AM

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**Public comment submission:**

Hello and good evening City Council Members. I am Alexis Altounian, resident on Marengo Avenue just south of Huntington Drive. I am a lifelong local; now raising my daughter here. While she attends Marengo Elementary, just a few blocks away we often do not walk to school because of so many close calls and accidents that I've witnessed on Huntington Drive over the years. These close calls and accidents have happened more frequently when crossing guards are not present. My father and I would walk and run up Marengo Avenue and witness everything from people running red lights to abrupt turns in front of us in the cross walk as pedestrians.

However, one specific incident I witnessed that I wanted to share occurred in the early 2000s. It was about 3pm on a school day when the crossing guard was struck by a vehicle turning right off of Marengo Avenue onto Huntington Drive who failed to stop and see her. Very fortunately the guard recovered and no children were injured. She happened to be a family friend and I immediately called her son to inform him of the accident and to let him know his mother was being transported to Huntington Hospital.

I understand we can not fix driver behavior but perhaps we can make the cross walk more visible to drivers and safer for pedestrians. I feel that having two crossing guards working in tandem to keep the intersection as safe as possible to and from school would be a significant improvement and beneficial to our community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Alexis Altounian