



CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action on the emergency approval of the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.01 General Provisions, Section 12.01.003 (1) of the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances reducing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour on Kalkallo Drive and Noble Lark Drive.

DATE: August 1, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Public Works/Public Safety

PRESENTED BY: Grant Watanabe, P.E., Director Public Works & Engineering Services
Tim Moring, Chief of Police

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:

Last year, residents residing on Noble Lark Drive and Kalkallo Drive noted an increase of traffic in using Noble Lark Road as a cut-through to and from Dietz Elkhorn Road. The heaviest traffic was causing safety concerns during school drop off and pick up times. In December 2023, after meetings with the Mayor and staff to discuss the concerns, the intersection was temporarily closed to assess the impacts to traffic flow in the area.

After numerous discussions regarding the closure of Noble Lark Drive, an ordinance was brought to the City Council for consideration on permanently closing the intersection. The Council postponed the closure and directed staff to find alternative methods to increase safety, mitigate traffic concerns, and collect timely and accurate data to be presented in the future.

Using data collected from previously conducted traffic studies, staff recommends reducing the speed limit on Noble Lark Drive and Kalkallo Drive from 30 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour. Findings for reducing the speed limit through the neighborhood include average motorist speeds of 24-26 miles per hour, lack of dedicated pedestrian shoulders, and no centerline on the road. Therefore, reducing the speed is expected to increase safety for both pedestrians and drivers. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a depiction of the proposed 20 mph speed limit signs.

Additionally, under Home Rule Charter Section 3.06F(4), if City Council determines an emergency exists related to the public peace, health or safety, they can require immediate action be taken with 2/3 majority vote. With the first day of the 2024/2025 school year scheduled for August 12, 2024, immediate action is necessary to ensure the safety improvements are in place and effective enforcement action can be taken.

POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:

1. Meets the priority 4.1 of Strategic Action Plan – Enhance and Ensure Continuity of Police Services.
2. Preserves quality-of-life characteristics through compliance with state law.
3. Ensures legal means of enforcement are adopted by City Council.

LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Purchase of new speed limit signs and associated hardware.

LEGAL ANALYSIS:

Approved as to form by the City Attorney.

RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to approve the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 12 Traffic and Vehicles, Article 12.01 General Provisions, Section 12.01.003 (1) of the City of Fair Oaks Ranch Code of Ordinances reducing the speed limit on Kalkallo Drive and Noble Lark Drive to 20 mph.