
MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph F. Lo Bello, CPA, Town Manager
FROM: Per the request of Mayor Halpern
DATE: June 15, 2022
SUBJECT: Discussion on Mars Way

Background

Mayor Halpern requested to have Mars Way placed on the agenda for discussion.

Recommendation

Staff recommends Council discuss this item with staff and direct staff on how to proceed.

Attachment(s):

- 1) Copy of email & signed petition from resident Jane LeClainche.





Caitlin Copeland <ccopeland@juno-beach.fl.us>

Mars Way Traffic and Parking Matters

1 message

Jane LeClainche <JLeClainche@townofpalmbeach.com> Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 1:41 PM
To: Joseph Lo Bello <jlobello@juno-beach.fl.us>, Frank Davila <fdavila@juno-beach.fl.us>, Caitlin Copeland <ccopeland@juno-beach.fl.us>
Cc: Karen Chaprnka <karen.chaprnka@gmail.com>, "skidaddle7@yahoo.com" <skidaddle7@yahoo.com>, "laurardgrs@yahoo.com" <laurardgrs@yahoo.com>

Joe and Frank,

Please see the email below that we would like forwarded to the Mayor and Council and attached petition signed by a majority of the residents/owners of Mars Way for the removal of the reflectors. We are requesting a Mars Way item be added to the June 22nd, Town Council meeting. There are residents that would like to address the Council regarding Mars Way. Some may come in person and others would like the opportunity to speak via zoom or other video communication method you have for public participation.

Thanks,

Jane

Dear Mayor Halpern and Council Members,

We the residents and property owners of Mars Way have enclosed a petition requesting the removal of the reflectors on Mars Way. As you may recall, this issue was raised at the March 2022 council meeting and it was requested by Council that we obtain signatures from a majority of the residents and property owners. We have obtained a majority as detailed in the attached petitions and as such request that Town Council direct Town staff to remove the reflectors.

Also in March 2022, then council member Halpern met with some of the residents and homeowners of Mars Way and we also discussed some of the more serious safety issues. The below items, which were also raised at the workshop meeting with Town staff in 2021, were proposed by residents to improve the safety of the street:

- Enforcement/ticketing of vehicles speeding on Mars Way and the use of speed trailers, possibly every other week, to discourage speeding.
- Close US-1 median at Mars Way to decrease traffic by preventing south bound US-1 traffic from turning onto Mars Way. This could be done on a temporary basis to determine the results before permanent implementation.
- Study the street to determine if chicanes can be installed as a traffic calming device. Temporary chicanes can be installed initially.

- Perform traffic study of adjacent through streets (Donald Ross and Olympus) to determine traffic volumes compared to capacity.

Since the October 2021 Council meeting where a few other measures to improve the street were approved, the residents have not noticed ANY improvements on the street from a safety perspective and in fact have noticed even greater traffic. This is very concerning. There is two way traffic (500 to 700+ vehicles per day) on a narrow (20' wide) street where there aren't any pedestrian sidewalks for the residents and thus residents have to walk on the road and traverse traffic. Additionally, residents have to back out of their driveways into oncoming traffic and whose line of sight is blocked by the likes of utility vehicles etc that are parked on the sidewalks servicing the Oceanfront condominium.

In years past, Mars Way was a small neighborhood street, however, due to the growing population in Palm Beach County, the street is now a major cut through street without any protections for the residents. Complicating matters further is the fact that the topography of the street at both ends doesn't allow residents to see oncoming traffic until it's potentially too late. Homeowners are selling their homes due to safety and traffic concerns such as Donna Love ([490 Mars Way](#)), Kevin Lunny ([470 Mars Way](#)), Anthony Allogia ([421 Mars Way](#)) and Timothy Row ([400 Mars Way](#)). Many of the residents of Juno Beach that use Mars Way are very aggressive drivers and sling shot onto Mars Way from US-1 making it very dangerous for the residents who live on the west side of Mars Way. In addition, many trades/service personnel with their pickup trucks, trailers etc. use the street for access to the Town. In the past, there was concern from a council member that closing the median would inconvenience the residents of the entire community. We ask what's more important, minimal inconvenience or Mars Way residents safety? The fact that it may take drivers anywhere from 30 seconds to two minutes more to get home by circumventing Mars Way vs putting the owners of 17 homes in harm's way seems to us an obvious choice.

The residents of Mars Way would like the Town Council to direct staff to arrange with the County for the temporary closing of the median at US-1 and Mars Way in order to perform a traffic study of Donald Ross Road. The study would determine if there was a capacity issue from the re-routing of traffic and if not, then the Town could request the permanent closure of the median. This study should be done during the upcoming season (2022/2023) when traffic is significantly higher.

The Town Council proposed having another Mars Way traffic study completed this upcoming season to determine the impact of the adopted changes, however, we instead request that the funds be used for the study for temporarily closing the median at US-1 and Mars Way and the impact of its effect on Donald Ross Road.

We would also like the Town Council to consider making Mars Way a Resident Only parking street. Mars Way is a unique street due to the above mentioned issues. In addition, the Oceanfront Condo is sending all their trade and worker traffic onto our street to park and is causing a huge safety issue for residents as mentioned above. This is an accident waiting to happen and many near misses have already occurred.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters and we are available to meet with any of you to discuss these issues and viable solutions.

Signed:

Karen and Bob Chaprnka

Bill Viggiano

Laura and John Rodgers

Jane and Jeremy Le Clainche

Andrea Erickson

Please be advised that under Florida law, e-mails and e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact the Town of Palm Beach by phone at (561) 838-5400, or in writing: [360 S. County RD, Palm Beach, FL 33480](#).

 **petition attachment.pdf**
211K

Petition from the Residents/Owners of Property on Mars Way, Juno Beach, FL

May 6, 2022

**Honorable Mayor and Town Council
Town of Juno Beach, Florida**

Re: Reflectors on Mars Way

To date improvements on Mars Way have included the installation of new 20 mph speed limit signage on the street and the adoption of the updated truck ordinance.

This petition is the result of the installation of reflectors on Mars Way. The residents of Mars Way were not consulted and did not anticipate reflectors being installed when the road was striped.

The purpose of having the street striped was to try and keep cars in their defined lane or as close to their defined lane as possible and reduce the number of drivers using the full width of the street and thus speeding.

The difficulty of having cars stay comfortably in their lane is that Mars Way is a very narrow two-way street, only 20' wide, with each lane two feet narrower than a standard lane. Making matters worse, cars are parked on the sidewalk area further create the feeling for drivers that the lane is narrower than it already is. The Oceanfront condo at the bottom of the street constantly sends its trades and other service providers to park on our street, creating congestion with their vans, trucks and other vehicles. Mars Way is one of two through streets in the town with more and more trades using this street as a cut-through to service the broader community of Juno Beach. All of this adds to the fact that the majority of the time vehicles are running over the reflectors throughout the day and night (500 to 725 vehicles per day) and creating a significant noise issue and thus a nuisance to the residents on the street.

On March 16, 2022, several residents met with council member, now Mayor Halpern on our street to discuss various ways to improve the street and for one and a half hours all witnessed the noise of cars running over the reflectors. This issue was brought up at the council meeting on March 23, 2022, and Mayor Halpern said she witnessed the constant noise from the cars running over the reflectors, that the noise was annoying and that the lanes are too narrow to avoid running over the reflectors.

The reflectors are not required and should not have been installed on a street with 17 homes, especially considering the unique circumstances of the street. The residents signed a petition last year asking the Town to not install speed humps because of the added noise that they would produce, and speed humps were not installed. The Town Manager and Town's traffic engineer acknowledged the issues of noise that speed humps would create but now we have a worse situation with the noise from cars running over reflectors all day and night long. The street has streetlights and is very well lit at night so that reflectors are not needed to delineate the lines on the street for visibility at night. This is not a safety issue for the street. If the residents had known that reflectors would be installed with striping, we would not have been in favor of the striping, since we are against any additional noise on the street. We would kindly ask

the Town to remove the reflectors so that residents do not have to be burdened with the additional noise. We already have significant noise due to the volume of traffic, pitch on the road and degree of truck and trade traffic servicing the Town.

We have all invested in our neighborhood and we are extremely concerned about the negative effects the noise would have on our quality of life and our property values. We do not want additional noise on the street.

The undersigned below, property owners and residents of Mars Way, are filling this petition, dated this 6th day of May 2022, requesting Town staff and/or the Town Council approve the removal of the reflectors from Mars Way.

Signed:

William
Viggiano

Name	Address	Signature
Jane LeClair	401 Mandway	Jane LeClair
William Viggiano	420 Mars Way	William Vigi
Joe Bell	571 Ocean Drive	Joe Bell
Giulio Bellini	451 MARS WAY	Joe Bell
Virginia Ingliss	400 MARS WAY	Virginia
Louise Rodgers	1/21 MARS WAY	Louise
Billy Johnston	480 Mars Way	Billy Johnston
Andrea Erickson	480 Mars Way	Andrea

Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager

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Name	Address	Signature
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William Viggiano	420 Mars Way	William Viggiano
Joe Bell	571 Ocean Drive	Joe Bell
Giulio Bellini	451 MARS WAY	Giulio Bellini
Karen Allen	471 Mars Way	Karen Allen

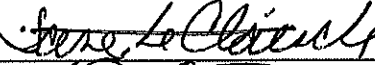
Cc: Joseph Lo Bello, Town Manager

suggesting this option to try and reduce the speed of cars traveling on the street. We would kindly ask the Town to remove the reflectors so that residents do not have to be burdened with the additional noise. We already have significant noise due to the volume of traffic, pitch on the road and degree of truck and trade traffic servicing the Town.

We have all invested in our neighborhood and we are extremely concerned about the negative effects the noise would have on our quality of life and our property values. We do not want additional noise on the street.

The undersigned below, property owners and residents of Mars Way, are filing this petition, dated this 26th day of March 2022, requesting Town staff and/or the Town Council approve the removal of the reflectors from Mars Way.

Signed:

Name	Address	Signature
Jane & Jeremy LeClanche	401 Mars Way	
Kevin Lunny	470 Mars Way	