

BRI VILLAGE TRAFFIC SAFETY GROUP
2233 North Records Way
Meridian, ID 83646

December 7, 2021

The Honorable Mayor Robert E. Simison and Members of the Council
City of Meridian
33 East Broadway Avenue, Suite 300
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Mayor Simison and Members of the City Council

Introduction

Bri at the Village of Meridian (BRI) is an active adult apartment community located at 2233 North Records Way, Meridian, Idaho. The complex is conveniently located at the southwest corner of East River Valley Street and North Records Way; directly across North Records Way from Julius Kleiner Memorial Park; and just north of The Village at Meridian. The community was designed and is operated specifically for residents who are 55 or older, where the average age of the residents is 74. There are currently 130 residents. With 166 apartments, the complex will likely have in excess of 200 occupants by next year. Many are new citizens of Meridian. Further to the north along North Records Way are several additional large apartment complexes, plus a large residential community along the east side of the street.

These other complexes include:

- Regency with 370 Units.
- Verraso with 96 units.
- The Lofts with 36 units..
- Additional proposed high-density units along the west side of the street.

As a result of this recent development, the area north of the Village along North Records Way is residential in nature.

Our Concerns

The purpose of this letter is to address several health and safety concerns that have arisen regarding the traffic along North Records Way. These concerns generally fall into the two following categories:

Safety

- **Children and families crossing North Records Way to and from the Julius Kleiner Memorial Park.** This park is heavily used and is the site of many car shows, festivals, music events, high school track events, family and company events, etc. throughout

the year. The total annual usage is estimated to be in the thousands. The north entrance to the park is located directly across North Records Way from the BRI building and the north entrance to the Village parking lot on the west side of North Records Way. There is no crosswalk at this location. Instead, visitors must walk either north to the corner of East River Valley Street and North Records Way or south to a crosswalk at the south end of the Village parking lot. As a result, visitors jay-walk directly across North Records Way as traffic allows.

- **Safety issue with cars not stopping (rolling stops) at the intersection of East River Valley Street and North Records Way.** There is a cross-walk across North Records Way at this intersection. The vast majority of vehicles at this intersection make rolling stops. This failure to stop puts people at risk who are crossing the street from west to east as they cannot see the cars coming from behind them as they step off the curb. Several close calls have been reported by residents.
- **Excessive Exhaust Noise.** Cars along both East River Valley Street and North Records Way are excessively speeding which exacerbates noise levels. This noise adversely affects the resident's quality of life on a daily basis.

Proposed Actions

1. We request that the City of Meridian ask the Ada County Highway District (ACHD) to reduce the speed limits along North Records Way from 30 to no more than 25 miles per hour to protect the safety of all. Traffic is often now exceeding the posted 30 mph speed which is a real safety concern. This request would be consistent with posted speed limits within the nearby residential communities. Idaho State Code #49-207 (2) allows this request. This would improve the safety of residents and park visitors crossing to Kleiner Memorial Park, plus provide safer egress from the BRI parking structure.
2. We request a radar speed sign be routinely provided by the City of Meridian Police Department to promote a calming effect of speeds along North Records Way. The speed sign could be installed in a parking space fronting the BRI building and/or adjacent street planter strips.
3. We request a greater enforcement presence at the intersection of East Valley Street and North Records Way to address the failure to fully stop.

4. We request that a crosswalk be installed at the North end of the Village parking lot to provide safe passage for visitors and others trying to cross North Records Way to get to and from the Julius Kleiner Memorial Park on the East side of the street. The present situation is simply unsafe.

5. We request additional enforcement to abate the excessive exhaust noise on North Records Way. Idaho State Code (Section 49.937) was



developed to protect residences from unreasonable exhaust noise. Specifically, Section 49.937(3) states “No person shall modify the exhaust system of motor vehicle or motorcycle in a manner which amplify or increase the noise of the vehicle or motorcycle above that emitted by the muffler originally installed on the vehicle by the Manufacturer”.

Conclusion

This letter is submitted to you in the interest of resolving some of the traffic issues that have been identified during the past year. The Meridian police have been helpful and responsive but their resources are limited. We are asking that you give them additional tools with which to work. We all know the additional problems being created by the growth in our area and will appreciate any help you can give us in addressing the above safety concerns.

To that end, we are available to help you and your staff with additional information. We have been accumulating pictures, videos, and testimony that are fully available to your staff as they may be needed.

An example of this help is provided by the calls from residents to the police the night of November 21 last. Two vehicles were heard and seen doing wheelies on the grass in the Kleiner park across from the Bri Village apartments. Calls to the police led to the apprehension of the drivers that night.



Please call Jon Wheeler at 208-917-4868 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

The Bri Village Traffic Group

Jon Wheeler, Chair

Betty Blaser

Dave Dahl

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