

## MEMO

TO: Chairperson Dana Davis and Committee Members

FROM: Jaynellen J. Holloway, P.E.

DATE: September 7, 2023

RE: Public Safety and Welfare Committee Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

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Review and take possible action: Remove and relocate "Children at Play" Sign from Kiewert Street

### BACKGROUND:

Review and take possible action: Remove and relocate "Children at Play" Sign from Kiewert Street

The Mayor received a request from a resident on Highland Avenue for the existing "Children at Play" sign to be removed from Kiewert Street and placed near the alley where it is dark. The alley is near Highland Avenue.

Engineering Division does not recommend the placement of these signs for the following reasons:

**False Sense of Security.** The [Institute of Transportation Engineers \(ITE\)](#) states, "Caution-Children at Play or Slow Children signs should not be used since they may encourage children to play in the street and may encourage parents to be less vigilant." "Children at Play" signs give parents a false sense of security in letting their children play in the streets.

**Liability.** The "Children at Play" sign is not MUTCD-standard. When you install signs that do not conform with MUTCD you may be creating liability for your community/agency.

**Rarely Effective Solution.** The [NCHRP](#) (National Cooperative Highway Research Program) conducted a study of pedestrian accidents and found that 80% of collisions involving children resulted from an unsafe or illegal act by the child. This sign does not reduce the speed of traffic or make drivers more observant.

**Guidance.** "Children At Play" signs do not provide guidance to motorists as to a safe speed.

**Over-Signage.** If you place a "Children at Play" sign on a couple of blocks in your community, drivers may think the roads without the sign are children-free zones. Motorists need to expect children to be at play in all residential areas.

As stated in the MUTCD, "The use of warning signs should be kept to a minimum as the necessary use of warning signs tends to breed disrespect for all signs."

### Attachments:

- Site Map