



## Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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### November 2015 – The Jersey Village Grand Prix

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends,

Last year as a City Council member I was invited to a meet and greet with some of our neighbors on Seattle Street. Specifically, the block of Seattle Street closest to the high school. It was a well-attended affair consisting of younger couples with small kids as well as older couples who have lived at their Seattle Street homes for decades. There was plenty of coffee, pastries and snacks and we engaged in conversation covering a number of city topics. The topic on most attendees' minds that evening was speeding and cut through traffic.

Speeding and cut through traffic has become a serious concern in Jersey Village. City Council and staff have been discussing methods to remedy these issues. A number of speed mitigation methods have been addressed including strategically placed speed cushions and speed humps. Before any action was taken, Council decided that an all-encompassing view of speeding and cut through traffic needed to be professionally analyzed. Council budgeted and authorized a traffic calming study to be undertaken by a consulting firm specializing in traffic analysis. The scope of the review was to determine the extent of speeding and cut through traffic and suggested mitigation methods.

The consulting firm presented its initial study to City Council at the October meeting. Over a two day period, traffic was monitored at 22 locations. The Study determined that the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile for traffic at the following locations exceeded the posted speed limit by at least 5 mph (85<sup>th</sup> percentile = the speed at or below which 85% of all vehicles are observed to travel under free flowing conditions past a specific point); Village Drive from Village Green Drive to Rio Grande Street, Rio Grande Street from Koester Street to Smith Street, Rio Grande Street from Village Drive to Jersey Drive, Wall Street from Rio Grande Street to Senate Avenue, Jersey Drive from Rio Grande Street to Senate Avenue, Lakeview Drive east of Senate Avenue, Seattle Street from Senate Avenue to Solomon Street, Congo Lane from Solomon Street to Australia Avenue. Cut-through traffic was observed at Village Green Drive and Seattle Street from Senate Avenue to Solomon Street, primarily truck traffic. The cut through traffic is primarily due to 290 construction but it wasn't as substantial as expected.

The consultants will be returning to Council to discuss traffic mitigation recommendations. We will review available methods to address speeding and cut through traffic as well as their suitability for our community. In reviewing our options it is important to strike a proper balance between speed mitigation, community character and the impacts on our service vehicles. Council and staff are committed to the continued monitoring of the speeding issues, providing solutions and maintaining the safety of our community.

On an unrelated note, please keep the family of Fire Captain Hank Taylor and our Fire Department in your thoughts and prayers. Captain Taylor passed away last month and served our city and Fire Department for 18 years. He was a great neighbor, community protector and will be missed by many.

All the Best,

Justin Ray, Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas