

Serra Mesa Planning Group

A Recognized San Diego City Planning Group - Serving the Citizens of Serra Mesa

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October 19, 2023

Mayor Todd Gloria
City of San Diego Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Gramercy Drive Road Configuration

Dear Mayor Gloria:

The Serra Mesa Planning Group (SMPG) passed a motion on October 19, 2023, to request that the community, Taft Middle School, and CityMark be invited to participate in the discussion of the Gramercy Drive configuration before a decision is made. CityMark has plans to build multifamily housing at 2696, 3222, and 3241 Mission Village Drive.

The decision to reconfigure Mission Village Drive, reducing four travel lanes to two travel lanes, was made without any consultation with the community. Staff justification for this reconfiguration was the Serra Mesa Community Plan. This justification was refuted in an email to staff and in the *Serra Mesa Observer*, May-June 2023, page 13 article at <http://www.serramesa.org/smcc/observer-newsletter/>. The lack of a comprehensive plan impacts everyone's safety including bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.

Mission Village Drive reconfiguration has resulted in traffic buildup during peak traffic times – backup on Ruffin Road to Success Avenue. In addition, there is confusion with the two left turn lanes from Ruffin Road merging into one lane on Mission Village Drive.

Currently, there are issues at Taft Middle School when parents pick up their students at dismissal time:

- Cars double park in the outer driving lane of Gramercy Drive
- Illegal u-turns
- Students cross in unsafe areas on Gramercy, a hilly street with crossings only at the intersections on Ruffin and on Mobley
- Many cars park at 3222 Mission Village Drive (when construction begins the lot will become unavailable).

In addition to the three planned Mission Village Drive developments there is the potential for development of the properties across from Taft Middle School - the 7-acre lot and the adjacent Guild

Mortgage building lot. All this development as well as the future development at the Mission Valley SDSU site has the potential to greatly impact traffic along Gramercy Drive and Mission Village Road.

The safety of everyone (bicyclists, pedestrians, and cars) should be paramount. Community and school representatives who know the area and issues well should be involved in the discussion of the Gramercy Drive configuration.

SMPG looks forward to your response regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Cat Stempel
Chair, Serra Mesa Planning Group

cc: City Councilmember Raul Campillo