

PVP Watch Newsletter – September 22, 2008

To Our Friends & Supporters:

Interesting.....

We thought Newsletter readers might find it interesting that there were over 5,700 "hits" on the PVP Watch web site during August. Apparently readers are finding PVP Watch Newsletters informative. PVP Watch welcomes all comments. Send comments to info@pvpwatch.com.

Annenberg Buys RPV

As anticipated, the RPV Council at its September 2nd meeting (item #9) quickly moved to accept the Annenberg proposal for an "*Educational*" animal facility at the Lower Point Vicente / Point Vicente Interpetitive Center (PVIC). Proposed facility is to include housing for some 30-40 dogs and cats as they presumably await adoption. We understand that some of the Council's usual supporters were in opposition to the Council's decision.

Not yet known is how Council intends to provide land use. Will the Council give away RPV's public land to Annenberg for the "*Educational*" animal facility? Or will Annenberg pay complete market rates? An issue is whether or not the "*Educational*" animal facility is appropriate use of Public Land? Is this use permitted under the conditions of the land as gifted to RPV by the U.S. Government?

Some may be unaware that Annenberg paid for the "*Vision*" plan. Is the Council's action merely another "Quid Pro Quo" scenario? Annenberg paid for the Vision plan desired by City Hall, and Annenberg will get its "*Educational*" animal facility.

RPV Vision Plan

The plan put together by MELENDREZ was very professionally packaged. For those interested, the "plan" is posted at www.pvpwatch.com. Go to Current Events. It is a 32 meg file, so depending on Internet Access speeds, it may take a few minutes to download. There are hard copies at City Hall, Hesse Park, Peninsula & Miraleste Libraries. We urge all residents to take the time to read the "Vision Plan."

While there are a number of issues that we believe need further analysis, several items that caught our attention pertained to PV Drive South. One issue of questionable benefit is the following:

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"Strengthening the Backbone Of The Coast – Palos Verdes Drive.

"Palos Verdes Drive serves as the spine or backbone of the Rancho Palos Verdes Coast, linking the key sites, destinations, preserve and parklands. While this road must serve the automobile traffic it accommodates and the adjacent neighborhoods, it must also be a place that visually represents the character and quality of the vision for the environment within the Rancho Palos

Verdes Coast, and be comfortable for people and bikes. Therefore, a continuous pedestrian and bicycle linkage should ultimately be developed along Palos Verdes Drive for the entire length of the City's coastline. This will help complete the City's Coastal Access Trail system, and provide a safe and comfortable connection along the bluffs and at access points down to the shoreline. This linkage should be off-street where possible."

PVP Watch Observation – PV Drive South is a main arterial route for many RPV residents. The slide area is in constant slippage. Current slippage maintenance costs are unknown but must be substantial.

The reality of PV Drive South being totally disrupted is only a matter of time. There is, to our knowledge, no strategic planning to handle such an eventuality. That there should be consideration of bikeways and walkways within the slide area is therefore preposterous.

Roadway Width

"A goal of this plan is to balance the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists with automobiles in the Rancho Palos Verdes Coast, and to reduce speeds on the roadway, and control traffic noise. To this end, in one segment of Palos Verdes Drive, roadway narrowing to two travel lanes should be considered. Narrowing one segment of the road, between Seacove, and the southern end of Abalone Cove, would simply extend the already narrower, two-lane portion of the road six tenths of a mile north. It would also provide an opportunity to widen sidewalks for pedestrians along the Abalone Cove frontage, and enhance plantings there, given that this is a park-edged area in which the bluff is wide, and an area in which a future trail from the Preserve may some day join Palos Verdes Drive."

PVP Watch Observation - The concept of reducing any portion of PV Drive South from four lanes to two lanes is absurd. Apparently MELENDREZ did not observe that there are NO cross Peninsula traffic routes other than PV Drive North & PV Drive South, which currently carries 12,000 - 16,000 vehicles per day. That there would be considerations for reducing any sections of PV Drive South from four to two lanes makes the entire report questionable.

Peninsula Traffic / Crime Concerns

The August 29th PVP Watch Newsletter asked for resident opinions to the following questions, *Are you satisfied with current Peninsula policing? Are traffic citations fair and deserving? Make your views known to info@pvpwatch.com.*" Following are responses we received. Names of those responding are omitted.

I feel all speeding tickets are warranted and necessary. We live on a street posted 25 mph and speeds routinely exceed 45 mph or higher. When the sheriff comes out they write an average of 8 -10 tickets an hour, most from the residents in the upper part of the neighborhood. Speeds then drop for a few months but usually climb right back up. Without the occasional enforcement speeds would not drop at all. I am told the sheriff generally gives 14 mph over the speed limit before issuing a citation. That's plenty of leeway to avoid a ticket. Certainly not "ticky-tacky."

I have to agree that they're a lot of "ticky tack" tickets being issued, some of which appear to be the result of driving the wrong vehicle. I recently experienced this selective ticketing while driving up the hill from Malaga Cove Plaza. Following a Mercedes Benz in my new and clean pick-up truck, I was cited for speeding while the Mercedes was allowed to continue unobstructed. While being ticketed a security patrol vehicle passed us obviously exceeding the 25 mph limit twice over. When I questioned the police officer about why he didn't pursue the security vehicle he stated that "He'll say he was on a call." Is this an excuse to give (junior blue uniform) personnel special treatment, or drivers of expensive cars special treatment when there is a choice between a money car and an economical truck. I don't know the answer, however, I would like to see more neighborhood patrolling than ambush ticketing. I'm not saying that I didn't deserve the ticket for speeding, however, the car in front of me should also have been ticketed.

Not wanting to become a “target” as I have seen some people become after complaining about unfair ticketing, I opt to remain anonymous.

No known problems when people obey the laws! Suggest that the number of driving infraction tickets should be increased. To hell with the scofflaws.

Police cars are daily on Hawthorne at the bottom of the hill when your car naturally picks up speed unless you are riding the brake. I think this is a very unfair place for the police officers to hide. Everyday they have someone pulled over.

I wish they would not give out so many tickets and would do more police work. Our home was burglarized 5 years ago and one police officer came and looked around and filed a report and that was the end of it. No fingerprinting, no follow-up. I called the station many times and wrote up a report with all the details I gathered from my neighbors who saw the man and the car, but not the license plate, and no one really cared at all and nothing was done. I wish we had a police force that was more interactive in crimes and not speeding tickets.

As a bicycle rider, including PV Drive East, I am very happy with the current policing of the roadways. It is my observation that a significant number of the vehicles traveling the roadways are over the speed limit. I have noticed that on PV Drive East they are closer to the speed limit in the last year. I recognize bikers that ride two abreast are a menace and there should be a rule against it. On the other hand I do think there should be a place for bikers to ride or in lieu of that motorists should have to put up with them as opposed to blowing the horn, throwing the finger, or cutting them off so they crash into the back of the car.

I live on Ganado in Rancho Palos Verdes and have seen a police car sitting on PV Drive East either on the switchback or near Marymount almost every weekend for over two years. My husband and I have received citations as well as almost every friend and neighbor that we know. After many conversations with people about this we feel that these citations are very minor infractions and many times are unwarranted.

In my case I was coming UP the hill on the switchback and in order to gain a little momentum I was going ten miles over the speed limit in the middle of the day with no

other traffic around. I do not see how this was unsafe for me or for other drivers. However, technically it was against the letter of the law and I got a ticket.

It is apparent to us in the neighborhood that the majority of these tickets are just a way to gain revenue for the city. We are sick and tired of being OVER-POLICED!! I don't believe the traffic or accidents in that area are so high that we need police to stand guard on a daily basis. I would much rather see them doing their sworn in job, which is "to protect and to serve." This does not translate to monitor every move people make and be on a constant witch-hunt for anyone that may slip now & again. These police need to do the hard work like catch burglars, monitor gangs, look for people on drugs or DUIs, etc. I would much rather have my hard earned tax dollars used to protect me and our families that way.

Let's use our police in a smarter way to make our neighborhoods safe and secure instead of just raking in the bucks over some minor traffic tickets over and over!

It is not surprising that there are differing opinions concerning "*policing*" on the Peninsula. As earlier reported, it is reported that citations are *usually* written when speed exceeds posted limits by 14 MPH. Readers opinions are welcomed.

A Reminder

For those wishing to vote from home (or elsewhere), PVP Watch has posted the permanent Absentee Ballot request form at Current Events. This can be downloaded & printed. Information concerning where to mail is included.

PVP Watch Web Site

There is a lot of good information posted on the PVP Watch web site. Click on www.pvpwatch.com and go to Current Issues and look around.

PVP Watch – Newsletter List

A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters. Should you change your e-mail address, don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address.

PVP Watch – Contributions

PVP Watch thanks those who have contributed. Those desiring to make a modest contribution, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Subscribers

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to info@pvpwatch.com

PVP Watch strives to bring current issues to www.pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to info@PVPWatch.com.