

From: "Gail Lorenzen" <rpnw@ix.netcom.com>
Date: April 19, 2010 10:29:48 AM PDT
To: "AAA Address" <rpnw@ix.netcom.com>
Subject: ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN NO. 34
Reply-To: "Gail Lorenzen" <rpnw@ix.netcom.com>

This is going to all Block Captains. Please network to all residents.

Neighborhood Watch cannot become involved in political issues unless they involve public safety, crime or quality of life issues. Behind the glossy pamphlets that residents are receiving in abundance from Marymount College, there are several issues that should concern all RPV residents. Petitions are now being circulated throughout the city to gather 2700 signatures to place an initiative for a major expansion of the college on the November ballot. If approved by voters, it would allow the development to circumvent the City's founding charter, the Planning Commission and the rights of RPV residents. The Marymount master plan includes adding and expanding numerous buildings, dorms for 250 students, and both indoor and outdoor athletic facilities. As an active member of 2 major crime prevention organizations for 19 years (L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. Crime Prevention Unit, and the California Crime Prevention Officer's Association), I have had much training in crime issues, including campus incidents. These include what are still called "time-honored rituals" such as raucous parties, underage drinking, binge drinking, and significant drug use. Before residents sign these petitions, I encourage every resident to think beyond the "Treasured City Asset" assertions, and ponder some serious questions.

TRAFFIC The claim of fewer cars on the streets is imaginary. Housing 250 students still leaves 543 on the roads to the campus. A college campus with dormitories is a 24/7 operation, and after hours and weekend traffic will expand significantly. Does anyone think that college students living on campus in the middle of a strictly residential neighborhood will stay there after school hours?

The DMV cites that, "drivers 15-19 have the highest accident, injury, and conviction rates of any age". They indicate, "The risk of a fatal accident of those 18 years and under is 2.5 times that of the average driver, and 3 times higher for injury accidents than average drivers." MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) indicates that, "binge drinking on college campuses is reaching epidemic proportions". Add to the equation that students, to get anywhere, will have to drive up and down the most dangerous, winding road on the Peninsula, through quiet residential areas, which are pitch dark at night. Also realize that because there are few sidewalks in the area, residents walk, jog, and cycle along

these streets at all hours of the day. We have already seen in several recent incidents the manifestations of reckless young drivers causing deadly accidents, including one in broad daylight on a wide street with a pedestrian on the sidewalk.

In addition, the 8-year construction period will add heavy construction equipment and workers' vehicles to the traffic mix, further complicating traffic issues.

CRIME Though Marymount claims that crime on their campus has been virtually nil, there have been a significant number of drug and alcohol arrests in and around their San Pedro residences, as well as other off campus crimes attributed to students. By bringing the students onto the campus, they are essentially transferring the crime into RPV.

QUALITY OF LIFE There are more things for residents to consider:

- The campus is surrounded on four sides by quiet residential areas. On two sides residents' properties abut the campus. Should our residents have to suffer dormitories and athletic fields in their backyards?
- Construction will be phased over 8 years. Hundreds of construction vehicles will be going up and down P.V. East. Please recognize that nearby residents will rarely, if ever, have a quiet weekday during 8 years of construction, after which they'll have the noise emanating from outdoor athletic events. Is this fair to those residents?
- During athletic events, consider the impact in nearby neighborhoods of bright lights and outdoor sound amplification. Is this appropriate for an otherwise quiet residential area?
- Think of campus parties that are now made large by using Twitter and other social media to quickly gather partygoers from outside the City.
- Recognize that athletic and other events will draw many outside residents, mostly young, up the hill further exacerbating traffic on the hilly roads. .
- Don't for a minute think that crimes do not occur on campus. They do – mostly alcohol and drug related.
- If you're one of those who don't care about any of the above because it doesn't affect you, think again. Consider the fact that the Initiative route, if successful, can set a precedent to embolden other developers to try putting up anything anywhere in our city. Consider that the November election will cost the city thousands of dollars, which wouldn't otherwise be needed, as there are no other RPV election items on the ballot. Consider the added law enforcement cost to manage traffic, investigate campus and off-campus crimes, control

crowds, and shut down raucous parties. All of these things are paid for with your taxpayer dollars.

Our Neighborhood Watch leaders have worked diligently for 19 years on public safety, residential safety, and quality of life issues in our community. The founders of our city also committed endless hours incorporating our city so we would be able to control development and density. Our residents bought homes here to enjoy a life of peace and quiet in their homes, which are also their sanctuaries in an increasingly stressful world. Please consider all these things when deciding whether or not to sign the petition, or vote for the huge development being proposed in a quiet residential area. It's our city; let's not let the developers take control from us.

Gail Lorenzen

RPV Neighborhood Watch