

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

September 3, 2009

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: MAJOR SCOTT MASINGTON
SPECIALIZED ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

DATE: September 3, 2009

FROM: SERGEANT JESSE MEDINA
CRASH INVESTIGATIONS UNIT 

SUBJECT:
GULLIVER ACADEMY EAST
SHOULDER IMPROVEMENT

The impact of traffic in the area of Gulliver Academy is substantial during the early morning hours of drop off and afternoon hours of pick up. The impact of traffic is approximately 45-60 minutes during the morning and 30-45 minutes in the afternoon. In the past few years some improvements were made to ease the flow of traffic through the campus. Due to the new improvements, campus roadways allow for more vehicles resulting in less vehicle volume on Old Cutler Road and Red Rd. Officers working the entrance and exit of the campus plus the traffic light at 120 ST and Red Road, in the afternoon, enhance the efficiency of traffic and safety to all motorists in the area. Although the efficiency of traffic has improved and is always of primary concern of both on campus security and police officers, the fact remains that a few problem areas still exist.

On the east shoulder of Red Rd, there is gravel area that is between the entrance and exit to the school. This area is used for parking during drop off and pick up by parents who want to walk their children to class. Before they park, they obstruct the flow of traffic on Red Rd due to slowing down northbound before making a right turn into the gravel lot as well as stopping north bound traffic while they drive south on Red Rd then make a left turn into the gravel lot. Officers are unable to maintain a consistent flow of traffic on Old Cutler Rd and Red Rd due to these vehicles. This lot can also cause a visual obstruction to north bound, Red Rd traffic if vehicles are parked close to the roadway. It would make it difficult for drivers to monitor north bound traffic before they exit and travel south. This is unlikely to be an issue during school hours because the exit gate is closed. Also, it would not be a problem during drop off and pick up times because officers are present and vehicles are only allowed to travel north once they exit the campus. In addition to the above mentioned gravel lot, there is another shoulder area north of the exit and east of Red Rd which causes the same problem; however, makes matters worse due to the fact that this area is narrower making many vehicles reverse onto Red Rd in an effort to proceed north. An improvement to these areas will allow the traffic to flow easier and more consistently.

First, making the gravel lot an enclosed grassy area with a surrounding curb will restrict vehicles from parking in that area. It will create a traffic control device motorist will have to obey. It will force parents to drop off their children by using designated lanes or drive all the way around to the rear parking lot of the school. Once they park, parents can safely walk their children to class without stopping traffic and/or risking a pedestrian involved crash. By driving to the rear parking lot, parents may only use an addition 5-10 minutes of their time and a safer passageway

for them and their children. The east Red Rd shoulder north of the school exit could also be curbed filled with grass and trees. Again this will restrict parking and force parents to follow the direction of the officers who are constantly monitoring the flow of traffic. The areas mentioned hold 30-40 vehicles. This means 30-40 more vehicles on Red Rd; however, officers have more control of vehicles on the roadway than vehicles entering and leaving the graveled lots. By allowing the officers to control all vehicles, traffic will flow easier because officer can gauge the volume of traffic on Red Rd. versus the volume of exiting vehicles. Officer can increase or decrease traffic flow exiting the school as well as allowing more or less traffic to flow on Red Rd. This allows for a more efficient and controlled traffic pattern. The parked vehicles create a hazard and add another variable in an already tricky traffic equation.

Creating these curbed, grassy shoulders will beautify a now obvious eyesore. The new shoulders will promote better drainage and not allow mud puddles to develop during the rainy days. Permission from the Miami-Dade County or FDOT may be needed before designing the shoulders.

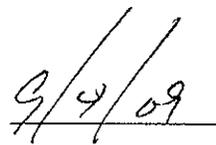
Other alternatives are asking parents not to park in these areas, posting no parking signs, enforcing by writing citations, or ignoring the problem. Asking parents not to park will only last a short time. Posting No Parking signs have the potential of solving the problem during certain times, however, creating a bigger problem between the school and parents. Writing citations will again only work during certain times, create a problem with police, parents, and the school. Lastly by ignoring the problem traffic will continue to be affected, although, for only about a 1 ½ of everyday. By not giving parents an option they will have to obey the traffic control device. A traffic control device is designed to do one thing and that is to facilitate the flow of traffic.

Reviewed By

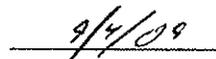


Lt A. Diaz
Specialized Enforcement Division

Date



Major Scott Masington
Specialized Enforcement Division



JM/jm