

—Safety/Police Issue at Lehi Jr. High—

2007-2008

A Brief History

For several years now the early morning drop-off situation on the north side of Lehi Junior High has been a matter of serious concern to Lehi Junior High School Community Council parent members.

During the morning rush especially, we have witnessed all kinds of dangerous acts: west bound parents with children exiting their vehicle on the north shoulder or in the middle of the road and crossing into traffic to get to the Junior High; east bound parents pulling into the parking stalls then backing into busy oncoming foot and vehicular traffic; parents pulling into oncoming traffic to let their kids out on the “safe” side of the road then facing into oncoming traffic; parents swooping into the parking stalls parallel to the curb and then hooking a U-turn through oncoming traffic; students crossing the road at all points, rarely in the crosswalk; and just about any other dangerous permutation you could think of.

When the school was first approved over twenty years ago, the school board was to consider adding more drop-off parking on the north side of the building as seen in this excerpt from the school district meeting minutes of February 26, 1985: “Mr. Johns moved that the recommendation be accepted as given to the Board on the school with three exceptions, including: ... 3. Charge (sic) the district administration with the responsibility of investigating the acceptability of adding more drop-off parking on the north side of the proposed building.... Mr. Harvey seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of the motion.”

Since that time, to our knowledge, no such study has ever been conducted by school district administration.

In 2006, members of the Lehi Junior High School Community Council approached the Lehi City Council to propose that something be done about the dangerous area. While the mayor and council agreed that the narrow road and increased traffic were a problem, and while they desired to help, they felt that the responsibility and power lay with Alpine School District.

In May of 2007, Jean Franklin (former SCC parent member) and Beth Chun attended a District School Community Council meeting and presented the problem along with photos for documentation to parent members and also to Vern Henshaw who was present at the meeting. They proposed that a safe drop-off zone, including left and right turn lanes, such as are found at every feeder elementary school and even the high school, be made in the existing grassy setback on the north side of Lehi Junior High. They urged that, at the very least, School District leadership should commence a formal study of the issue as promised in the meeting minutes

of February 26, 1985. District council members took the documentation in hand and said they would look into the problem.

In October of 2007, the Alpine District, through Principal Kevin Cox, presented three options for creating a bona fide drop-off zone on the north side of Lehi Junior High. Each of the three options would entail removing the existing parking zone and part of the grassy area, and installing a pull-through lane such as is found at Segoe Lily, Eaglecrest, and the high school, to name several. The cost would be substantial and in light of apparently more pressing needs (such as completion of the new high school and other building projects), funds for a new drop-off zone are not immediately forthcoming. Some interim solution must be had.

Accordingly, in November of 2007, Lehi Junior High School Community Council members once again went before the Lehi City Council to request help from the city and the police department to monitor the traffic on the north side of the Junior High, especially during the busy early morning drop-off time. The goal is to improve the safety of the area until the District completes the official drop-off zone.

A Plea

As parent members of the Lehi Junior High School Community Council, we are certain that the lack of a safe drop-off zone in a much used area is a serious accident or death waiting to happen. We urge parents and students who regularly use the area for drop-off and pick-up to be especially careful and to obey traffic laws for the safety of the students. Better yet, we urge parents to spend just 2 ½ minutes more of their time and utilize the safe drop zone on the west side of Lehi Junior High.

We ask parents to cooperate with our efforts to ensure the safety of all Lehi Junior High students. And we sincerely hope that those with power and influence to rectify this dangerous situation will act before a serious injury or death forces the issue.

Please direct any questions you may have to Dianna Barton, president of Lehi Junior SCC, or to Alpine School District leadership.

Sincerely,

The 2007-2008 Lehi Junior High School Community Council parent members

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