

# MOFD deletes fire code traffic calming restrictions; disagreements still exist

By Sora O'Doherty

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District adopted its new fire code Feb. 15, with the exception that the board of directors agreed to remove a section clarifying the requirements for traffic calming measures. At the introduction of the ordinance, the town of Moraga and the city of Orinda had objected to the provisions, and in response MOFD withdrew them. But MOFD retains the authority to authorize, or reject, any traffic calming measures proposed by the town or city. Orinda Director of Public Works Scott Christie confirmed that "we don't believe this has a material impact on how traffic calming requests are processed."

The removed section 503.4.1 had stated that traffic calming devices shall be prohibited in all very high

fire hazard severity zones, and required that all applications for traffic calming devices provide information on the volume of traffic, the posted speed limit, the number of accidents in the previous three years attributed to excessive speed, the traffic engineer's determination that the site is suitable for traffic calming, the number of citations or warnings issued, as well as summaries of education and enforcement efforts.

At the Feb. 15 meeting, it was decided that, following further discussions with either the Orinda-MOFD 2x2 committee or direct discussions with staff or elected officials, one of several options could be adopted. One option would be to issue a blanket permit to the city and the town for traffic calming measures other than speed bumps, speed humps and tabletops, that is,

any physical alteration to the roadway that would substantially alter the speed over which fire and emergency vehicles could travel on that road. Other options include exempting such non-physical traffic calming measures or issuing ministerial permits upon application by the city or town.

Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs confirmed to Lamorinda Weekly that MOFD will proceed with an internal policy on traffic calming measures. Whenever the city or town wishes to approve a physical traffic calming measure, it has to submit a permit, to which, Isaacs said, the MOFD will apply language in a standard operating procedure. The MOFD is concerned about the effect of traffic calming measures on fire engines and ambulances, as well as upon evacuations during emergency situations.

Orinda Mayor Inga Miller has expressed to the MOFD board the city's belief that the ability to have traffic calming measures are important for pedestrian safety and bicycle safety. Orinda City Manager David Biggs submitted written comment to the MOFD board expressing the city's views that traffic calming opportunities are of tremendous value to the council and our neighborhoods. He wrote that the city council requested that the board consider alternatives to an outright ban and would like to engage with the fire district to ensure that there is a shared understanding of what types of devices are covered, there is a process to consider exceptions to any type of ban, and that fire related considerations be balanced against other public safety concerns including traffic.

# Mayor Mike, Citizen of the Year - diplomacy, patience and grace under pressure

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And he plays golf with a group called the Blind Squirrels. "We're not very good, but even blind squirrels can find an acorn every now and then," he says.

Says Srivatsa, "Thank you for your countless contributions to Lafayette, Mayor Mike!"

The 2023 Citizen of the Year Dinner Honoring Mike Anderson will be held on Friday, March 24 at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. Reception with no host bar from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Evening ends at 9 p.m. Seating is limited. Tickets can be purchased on the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce website:

<https://cca.lafayettechamber.org/EvtListing.aspx?dbid2=CALAF&evtid=82038&class=B>

## Letters to the editor

### Ways to consume less

Remember your 3 R's? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. But there are actually more R's! Rethink before you purchase or consume something to see if you really need said item, or see if you can do without (Refuse!) If you need it, see if you can borrow from a friend or neighbor (try out our local Buy Nothing Lafayette groups!) or even rent from a local business. If you cannot, then maybe Reduce your consumption of the item. Reuse, Refill, Repair/Repurpose as much as you can to prolong the uses of the item. Ultimately, at the end of its life, find a way to responsibly Recycle or Rot (i.e. compost). From grocery bags, coffee cups, water bottles, utensils to even bigger items like smart phones, TV's, and furniture... swap to reusable, high-quality alternatives or make do with what you already have!

Thanks to California laws like AB619, customers are allowed to bring their own containers and cups to businesses to be filled with food/beverage items. So the next time you stop by a business to order coffee or boba, bring your own (BYO) cup or jar! You might even score a small discount for doing a good deed (thank you Starbucks!) The Contra Costa County Health department is supportive of customers bringing their own containers, and you can even hear it directly from them in this webinar hosted by the Lafayette Chamber given May 2022: <https://lafayettechamber.org/reusables/> (scroll to 19:53). To learn more about how customers and businesses can work together to make BYO mainstream, you can look to these really cool graphics at this website: <https://www.canadareduces.ca/health>.

Shout out to Lilikoi Boba in downtown Lafayette who is totally cool with me bringing my own KleanKanteen cup for filling up with boba milk tea. They serve beverages in 16oz and 20oz cups, so know your cup or jar's dimensions beforehand to help out the employee serving you! Many of us have conditioned to BYO reusable bags when grocery shop-

ping. Let's expand that to BYO cups, containers, and utensils!

Nancy Hu DDS  
Lafayette

### In support of Measure Z

Orinda has great schools because we have great teachers. My 7th grade and 10th grade children have had veteran teachers that have taught in Orinda for many years and also young professionals that bring energy and new ideas to the classroom. Keeping great teachers in Orinda classrooms is the single most important thing we can do to keep our schools among the best.

My parents moved to Orinda for the great schools in 1975 and my sister and I attended Sleepy Hollow, Orinda Intermediate and then Miramonte. The number one reason I returned to Orinda to raise my children is the great Orinda public schools.

Orinda students move on to high school, college and careers prepared for success. However, Orinda teachers are among the lowest paid in our area and Orinda increasingly loses qualified and experienced teachers to other school districts that offer more competitive compensation.

Voting YES on Z provides locally controlled funding directly to Orinda's elementary schools and intermediate school to make Orinda schools less dependent on Sacramento for funding.

Whether you are like me and have kids in Orinda schools now or you had kids in the schools in the past, we all benefit from maintaining quality education in our community.

By Tuesday, March 7th, join me in finding your ballot and voting YES on Measure Z to keep great teachers in Orinda.

Dana Wentworth  
Orinda Union Alum  
Sleepy Hollow & Orinda Intermediate  
Parent

### Measure Z is fiscally sound

As a former Certified Public Accountant (CPA), I always do my homework on any funding measure before casting my vote. I know a fiscally sound plan when I see one, and Measure Z is just that.

Voting YES on Z provides locally controlled funding directly to Orinda's elementary schools and intermediate school to make Orinda schools less dependent on Sacramento for funding, while annual audits and independent citizens' oversight will ensure that funds are spent responsibly and as promised.

As a 36-year Orinda resident and former OUSD parent, I know what an impact local teachers and schools have on our students' lives and our local quality of life. I've already cast my Yes on Z vote and hope you will join me in doing the same before next Tuesday, March 7.

Bob Burt  
36-Year Orinda Resident

### Keep great teachers in Orinda with Measure Z

Having recently completed my term on the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees, I have watched with concern as a growing number of teachers leave Orinda for other neighboring school districts with more competitive pay. For example, last year 18 teachers left OUSD; there are around 20 teachers at each elementary school, so losing 18 is equivalent to losing an entire Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow or Wagner Ranch teaching staff. Furthermore, over the past four years the district has lost 55 teachers, or almost 40% of the teaching force. While teachers leave for a variety of reasons and it is impossible to know exactly how many leave over salary concerns, clearly OUSD is grappling with a retention problem. In addition, our district is also faced with a recruitment problem because qualified applicants can go to other school districts that offer

more money to new teachers. Many other nearby districts give higher starting salaries as well as signing bonuses for new hires. Currently, we can't compete with these districts financially so we continue to lose potential excellent new teachers to other places.

While I was on the Board I voted to place Measure Z on the ballot because it is the only realistic mechanism we have to recruit and keep the best teachers here in Orinda. We rank near the bottom of all school districts in California with regard to state funding and this funding situation is not going to change anytime soon. Locally controlled funding from Measure Z can only be used to attract and retain teachers, support quality academic programs, and keep class sizes small. By law, funds cannot be taken away by the state or used for administrator salaries.

One of the most important predictors of student success is the teacher in the classroom, and Orinda's teachers are what sets our district apart. The bottom line is that quality teachers are essential for maintaining quality education in Orinda schools. This election is extremely important and Measure Z needs support from two-thirds of voters to pass. Please take the time to find your ballot, mark Yes on Z and mail it back by March 7th. Our kids are counting on us!

Liz Daoust  
Former Orinda Union School District Board Member and OUSD Parent

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

## Public Safety

### Emergency response:

Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours  
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)  
**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com

**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, Ryan Sullivan  
925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

Feb. 5 - Feb. 18

Alarms	51
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	25
Traffic	102
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	23
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	26
Patrol Req./Security Check	37
Public/School Assembly Check	5
Supplemental Report	22
Vacation House Check	12
Welfare Check	9
Ordinance Violation	0
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	

Auto Burglary  
1000 Block Carol Ln. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
600 Block Huntleigh Dr.

Reckless Driving  
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.  
Reliez Station Rd./Richelle Ct.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Acalanes Rd./Eb Sr 24  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Glenside Dr./St Marys Rd.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
Police Department  
600 Block Los Palos Dr.

Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute  
Moraga Rd./Nephi Ct.  
1000 Block Howard Hills Rd.

Tc - Property Damage  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
Olympic Blvd./Reliez Station Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Deer Hill Rd./1St St.

**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Computer Fraud  
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.  
Fraud False Pretenses  
3800 Block Quail Ridge Rd.

Police Department  
900 Block Janet Ln.  
1000 Block Orchard Rd.

Grand Theft  
900 Block Risa Rd.  
10 Block Burnt Oak Cir.

Identity Theft  
1100 Block Laurel Dr.  
500 Block Adriatic Ct., Sra

Petty Theft  
3200 Block Burton Ct.  
400 Block Florence Dr.

3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

900 Block Janet Ln.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft Bicycle  
1000 Block Carol Ln.  
Petty Theft From Veh  
3700 Block Highland Rd.

1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.  
Residential Burglary  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)

Theft Access Card  
3200 Block Park Ln.

**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
900 Block Risa Rd.

Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.  
800 Block Reliez Station Rd.

Loud Music  
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
3500 Block Terrace Way

Loud Noise  
Glen Rd./Monticello Rd.

Public Nuisance  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

1100 Block Sunset Lp.  
Happy Valley Rd./Wb Sr 24  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.

**Other**  
Attempted Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

H&S Violation  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Harassment  
3300 Block Sweet Dr.

Threats  
3600 Block Mosswood Dr.  
800 Block Revere Rd.

Violation Custody Order  
Police Department

Violation Restraining Order  
Police Department



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Alarms	31
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	180
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	8
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	52
Patrol Req./Security Check	37
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	15
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	7
Ordinance Violation	1
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Accident Property	
100 Block Crest View Dr.	
Orchard Ct./Moraga Way	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.	
10 Block Van Tassel Ln.	
Carjacking	
Orinda Way	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
70 Block Moraga Way	
Fireworks	
Ivy Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Camino Pablo	
20 Block Orinda Way	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Los Amigos	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.	
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way	
St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Ivy Dr.	
Orinda Way	
Tc - Property Damage	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	

### Other criminal activity

Grand Theft From Veh  
Orinda Way  
Identity Theft  
70 Block Southwood Dr.  
10 Block Las Aromas  
Petty Theft  
Camino Sobrante  
Orinda Way  
Residential Burglary  
40 Block Hillcrest Dr.  
10 Block Northwood Ct.  
20 Block Miner Rd.  
Shoplift  
Camino Sobrante  
Warrant Arrest  
60 Block Oak Rd.  
Camino Pablo Before Claremont Ave.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Public Nuisance  
Camino Pablo Bart Path  
Theatre Square  
10 Block Theatre Sq.  
Vandalism  
20 Block Orinda Way  
Vandalism - Felony  
500 Block Tahos Rd.

**Other**  
Mentally Ill Commit  
Police Department  
Happy Valley Rd./Orinda View Rd.  
Transient Contact  
Theatre Square  
Violation Custody Order  
300 Block La Espiral