

WHAT'S THE BEST CATALYST FOR SETTING CEMENT?

Dear fellow SOS petition* signer,

“Questioning the validity of the [SOS] petition, one founder of the street obstacle movement said, ‘I wonder what those 1000 signatures represent.’”

My name is Rebecca Alzofon, and I live in the Willows. Like you, the Willows Traffic Committee has asked me to evaluate the “experimental” street obstacles in our neighborhood. Read on for frustrating news:

The Willows Traffic Committee doubts that we exist. Currently, they are

running Street Nights, where neighbors are invited to share thoughts about the obstacles. At the first Street Night, one Traffic Committee member asked an SOS petition signer, *if we aren't interested in coming to meetings, how can they tell if we are out there?* The Traffic Committee and the city government have been fully apprised of the SOS petition results. These results demonstrate large and significant numbers: Well over 1000 Willows residents signed the SOS petition! Questioning the validity of the petition, one founder of the street obstacle movement said, “I wonder what those 1000 signatures represent.”

To date, it appears that the Traffic Committee has not acknowledged our strong numbers, represented by signatures on the

petition. Given the history of their rise to power, this should come as no surprise. From the start, the primary motivating force behind the obstacle movement has been a small but highly vocal group of neighbors. *Vocal* is what these people pay attention to.

SOS recognizes that asking us to attend all the Willows Traffic Committee meetings would add up to an enormous burden on our time. That's one reason the SOS petition was a chosen form of public dissent.

However, I believe now it's time to state our opinions and demonstrate our numbers, face to face with the Traffic Committee. I accept their failure to acknowledge our numbers as an invitation to turn out and prove our presence. We are in the majority. When we turn out in large numbers, the Traffic Committee will be forced to take notice. Now is the time, before Phase II gets started. *This is important.* Don't hope someone else will do it for you. *They want to see YOU.*

Sincerely yours,



“... I believe now it's time to state our opinions and demonstrate our numbers, face to face with the Traffic Committee... When we turn out in large numbers, the Traffic Committee will be forced to take notice.”

APATHY.

* COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SOS PETITION

To the Menlo Park City Council:

We fully support enforcement of all traffic laws in the Willows.

We think the experimental traffic obstacles reduce the quality of life in the Willows. Obstacles should be used only if less costly and less invasive means of traffic control have been tried.

We support these standards: Any future traffic obstacle or sign must

1. be requested by 60% of the residents within one block.
2. be warranted by local accident, speed and volume statistics.
3. not divert traffic unfairly to neighboring streets.
4. preserve the current 4 minute emergency response time.

We call on the Council to remove all experimental obstacles and signs which do not meet the standards above, saving remaining funds for responsible traffic management.

STREET NIGHTS
Burgess Recreation Center
700 Alma, M.P. Civic Center

Thursday, July 21st
7:00-8:30 pm
Room 112

Thursday, July 28
7:00-8:30 pm
Room 118

For more information on Street Nights, call
 Menlo Park's Engineering Division
(415) 858-3420

To obtain more SOS information, call or fax
(415) 323-2353

SOS
A Community Association
for
Safe Open Streets

P.O. Box 1366
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SOS Steering Committee
George Byrd
Max Crittenden
Gordon Cruikshank
Eric Doyle
Harold Sweeney

