



Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Certified May 27, 2003

P.O. Box 635 • Tujunga, CA 91043-0635 • 818-951-7411 • Website: stnc.org

March 10, 2021

via: Email

LAPD Valley Traffic
Captain Andrew Neiman

Dear LAPD Valley Traffic Captain Andrew Neiman:

The STNC strongly opposes the reallocation of our primary and sole Traffic Officer Joel Flores due to LAPD budget cuts. Our Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee discussed this at our last meeting on February 23, 2021 and agreed that removing the presence of Officer Flores would immediately impact our stakeholders' safety. A survey recently taken in November/December 2021 by our STAT Committee and with the participation of Verdugo High School Leadership Students found that an overwhelming majority of our stakeholders feel that with less police protection on our roads, we will see more traffic-related accidents and possibly fatal collisions. (See survey attached).

Unsafe driving has escalated in our community over the past ten years. We have seen over 15 fatalities in just the last ten years on Foothill Boulevard alone. The cause of these accidents ranges from speeding to unsafe left turns, crossing pedestrian crosswalks when pedestrians are walking on them, and inattention to traffic laws. The only way we can positively cutback on serious injury accidents is to have a strong presence of traffic officers like Officer Joel Flores.

Officer Flores has been a good friend to our community in many, many ways. He has taken the time to investigate ongoing issues on different impacted side streets and even contacted those drivers who we have reported to him. Although he wasn't able to give them traffic citations under those circumstances of second-hand reports, he was able to caution these drivers about future consequences.

Our Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee (STAT) of the STNC was formed specifically to address unsafe traffic issues in Sunland-Tujunga. For the past two years, STAT has been requesting LAPD Valley Traffic's assistance in assigning a second Traffic Officer to our community as Officer Flores can't be everywhere at all times. The STNC board also approved a motion asking for \$80,000 in funding to be allocated for overtime for more LAPD Traffic Officers' presence in our community. Unfortunately, we have not seen this happen.

Due to the actions taken by our City Council to reduce LAPD's budget, we now find ourselves with even less help than before. We cannot allow unsafe motorists to continue to intimidate and harm our stakeholders. Please listen to our request today to maintain Officer Flores as a full-time Traffic Officer assigned to our area and do not reassign him to investigate traffic accidents instead of giving out tickets to those who cause the accidents.

Sincerely

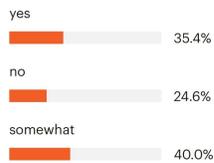
Lilibiana Sanchez, President
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Pat Kramer,
Chairperson, STAT Committee

Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, CD7 Councilmember.Rodriguez@lacity.org

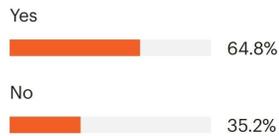
Traffic Survey Results:

“If LAPD reduces traffic officers, as a result of reduced funding, are you afraid traffic problems will increase in Sunland-Tujunga?”



Question 1 has 582 answers
(Radio Buttons)

“Would you agree that, at times, traffic on Foothill Blvd is very dangerous?”



Question 2: “If you answered Yes, were you walking, riding a bike, or in a car when you felt unsafe?”

Walking: 134

Riding a Bike: 18

In a Car: 161

Yes: 8

No: 216

All above: 52

Question 3 has 582 answers

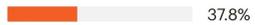
(Radio Buttons)

“Do you believe we should have more police patrolling traffic in the area?”

yes



no



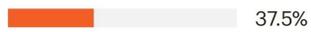
Question 4: “Are there any specific locations in Sunland-Tujunga you believe are dangerous (traffic-wise)?”

Question 5 has 302 answers

(Radio Buttons)

“Do your concerns about traffic safety ever keep you from using Foothill Blvd to ride your bike, walk, or drive?”

yes



no



Question 6: “Do you know anyone who has suffered from a traffic-related injury, collision, or accident in Sunland-Tujunga?”

STAT Traffic Safety Survey Results, Nov – Dec. 2020

By Betty Markowitz, STAT Committee Member

Students attending Verdugo Hills High School conducted a traffic survey of local residents concerning issues related to traffic hazards, level of police enforcement, locations experiencing high traffic violations and accidents, and concerns for safety when commuting on Sunland-Tujunga's main thoroughfare, Foothill Blvd. The survey was conducted between November 16, 2020 and December 7, 2020. A total of 582 responses were received.

With respect to the dangerousness of traffic on Foothill Blvd., 65% of the people responding agreed traveling on Foothill was very dangerous. When asked for specific locations that were of concern, Mt. Gleason and Foothill, Tujunga Canyon and Foothill, Valmont and Foothill, and Oro Vista and Foothill were identified. Other areas specifically mentioned included Tujunga Canyon Blvd. both north and south of Foothill, the area around Verdugo Hills High School, and Oro Vista from Foothill to the Wash. Respondents also identified problems of people not stopping for stop signs along Apperson, Plainview, Hillrose and Valmont.

Seventy-five percent of the people responding thought traffic problems would be worse if police presence was reduced in Sunland-Tujunga. The majority of respondents (62%) wanted more police presence, not less.

Safety concerns prevented 62% of the respondents from using Foothill Blvd. if an alternative route was available. Thirty-three percent felt threatened when riding in a vehicle and 26% felt threatened when walking in the area. Thirty-nine percent of the respondents knew someone personally who had been injured in a vehicle accident in Sunland-Tujunga.