

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Will Franzell, and my wife and three young children have lived on Nacional Street since June, 2014. We love our home and our neighbors, however, the traffic safety issue on our street is unacceptable. Cars travel above the speed limit, dangerously passing other cars, and driving recklessly with no consequences. This is why I've worked on rallying our neighbors around working for a change and focused on creating a positive impact for the safety of our citizens on Nacional Street.

I reached out to Steve McShane in the Fall of 2014. Steve is an amazing leader and helped us organize our first Nacional Neighbors United Neighborhood Watch meeting in January, 2015. This meeting was very successful with more than 25 neighbors attending, including traffic department officials and police officers. Some of our neighbors, who have lived here since the 1940s, shared amazing personal stories. We also brainstormed all of the possibilities for traffic calming on our street. During this process, we discovered that traffic calming on Nacional St. has been a safety issue for decades, with cars speeding well above the 25 MPH speed limit, and there have been multiple dangerous accidents and near-death experiences. Most neighbors agreed that we need a permanent solution, such as speed bumps, on our street.

Traffic calming progress moved very slowly after our first meeting adjourned. We put up "Drive Slowly" signs in every yard, which worked for about two weeks. During this time, I could not reach anyone in the traffic department since no one returned my emails or phone calls. Our neighbors were encouraged to call the non-emergency police department number. This didn't help much since there were only two traffic officers assigned for the entire city. So, folks began to get frustrated.

Our Nacional Neighbors United leaders decided to apply for a Neighborhood Beautification grant through the city. We received the grant, but then were told that we would need to raise enough money on our own to match the grant in order to purchase a solar-powered radar speed feedback sign. Almost every neighbor contributed and donated between \$20 - \$100 for this project, and we met our goal!

About six months later, we received our solar-powered radar speed feedback sign. According to the original traffic data that was collected, this sign was not put in the appropriate place on our street, and it faced in the wrong direction. Again, I tried communicating with someone in the traffic department and had very little success. Eventually, I referred the data back to the traffic department as evidence to get the sign moved to the proper location.

After another six months or so, we were told the city was going to put in another traffic calming sign near Central Ave, with islands, painted divider lines, and updated bike lanes. The traffic department asked for our neighbors' input before they started the construction. After attending one of our Neighborhood Watch meetings, asking questions, and taking detailed notes, they ended up doing the project how they had envisioned it, without considering our input.

These new signs worked for about one month. Then, traffic started speeding up well above the speed limit, and many drivers became reckless again without receiving any consequences. Most drivers still do not seem to notice or care if a sign is flashing at them or if children, pets, and elderly neighbors are walking on our sidewalks just a few feet away.

After almost four years and many failed attempts, it is obvious Nacional Street needs two things in place in order to truly implement and enforce traffic calming for our neighbors and future generation of

families on our street. Our neighbors all agree that we need speed bumps on Nacional Street, with police officers who will consistently enforce the traffic laws. Please refer to the latest Traffic Calming Project data collected on Nacional Street in January, 2018. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Will Franzell
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Salinas, CA 93901