

DATE: June 18, 2018  
FROM: Solomon Moshkevich  
TO: Menlo Park City Council

SUBJECT: Need 4-way stop signs on Central St, at the intersections with Walnut St and Elm St. Very dangerous.

In the past 4-6 weeks, there have been two serious accidents involving a vehicle and a bicyclist on Central St in the Willows. First a boy riding his bike around 830am on a weekday, likely on his way to school, was hit on the intersection of Walnut St. and Central St. The boy was heading west on Walnut St, and he was hit by a car heading north on Central. Then last night after dark, a woman was struck by a car on the intersection of Elm St and Central St. The car was headed north on Central.

These two intersections are nearly identical to one another, and both of these accidents were preventable.

At both intersections, the traffic on Central has no stop signs, but traffic on both Walnut and Elm do have stop signs. It is too easy to assume, especially for those unfamiliar with the neighborhood, that these intersections have 4-way stop signs. This problem is compounded by the fact that some intersections in the neighborhood have 4-way stop signs and others do not. In such cases it is common for bicyclists to sail straight through the stop sign, assuming that the other traffic will stop. The problem is also compounded by overgrown shrubbery at certain corners, obscuring visibility.

My family moved to the Willows neighborhood about 9 months ago in September 2018. Our house is at 115 Walnut St, on the corner of Walnut and Central. We have two young children ages 3 and 1. There are also young children living across the street and many others around the area. It is a constant worry when cars come bombing down Central. There are several schools nearby as well: Willow Oaks, Alto International, and Upper Laurel. This means many children crossing Central every day on foot and on bicycle. Our children would be much safer with extra stop signs on Central.

I have learned that extra stop signs were installed very recently on Gilbert St, at the intersection with Central. This was approved by the City Council on June 7, 2016, and reported in Staff Report Number 16-097-CC. That was a good step, but sadly the job was left unfinished. We need the same thing where Central intersects with Walnut and Elm.

At the current rate, there may be another accident within 6 weeks. We must move quickly to prevent this.

A concerned citizen and father,



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