



"Providing for a safe community"

Department Memorandum Office of the Assistant Chief

TO: Public Works Director Bellia

DATE: April 12, 2017

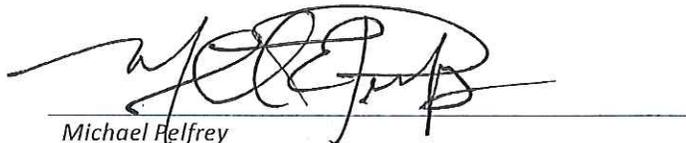
SUBJECT: West Price Blvd. Widening Project

I have discussed the "West Price Blvd. Widening Project" with the Patrol Commanders. All of them have similar concerns about emergency response, traffic volume at "peak times" and general call response. West Price Blvd. is our main East/West response artery through the city.

Our main concern is general response to anywhere along the West Price Blvd. corridor. Any weekday afternoon, between 1500 and 1800 hours, the congestion caused by the traffic volume negates even normal vehicle operation. This excessive congestion causes frustration among the motoring public and may cause many of the vehicle crashes and adds to general safety challenges. Second to this are motorists diverting onto several secondary side streets that run adjacent West Price Blvd. to avoid lengthy wait times at the major intersection with traffic signals. These side streets are residential streets that were not, and are not, designed to be throughways for traffic; they are solely, slow speed, narrow, "neighborhood streets" that do not offer sidewalks, curbing or other safety structures to keep the residents safe.

Finally, during any emergency response, other motorists have nowhere to safely "pull off the roadway". During the rainy season, the swales along the road are wet and vehicles get "stuck in the mud". Mailboxes, street signs, culverts, canals, driveways are all obstacles that hamper motorists from effectively stopping and pulling to the right for emergency traffic.

West Price Blvd. needs to be widened sooner than later.



Michael Helfrey