

RESOLUTION DSA-16-00010

RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF CASA GRANDE AZ, REGARDING PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON FLORENCE BLVD. BETWEEN CAMINO MERCADO AND HENNESS ROAD IN CASA GRANDE.

WHEREAS, the City of Casa Grande recently acquired, from the State of Arizona, control of Florence Blvd. from immediately west of the I-10 interchange, extending to the western side of town, and is now responsible for the safe operation of the road; and

WHEREAS, Casa Grande has grown significantly, and there have been increases in vehicle traffic volumes on Florence Blvd., especially on its more easterly parts; and

WHEREAS, there have been four pedestrian traffic deaths in the recent past, the most recent being a mother who died in December 2015; and

WHEREAS the road has become recognized by the State of Arizona as a high accident thoroughfare; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Florence Blvd. extending approximately three quarters of a mile between Camino Mercado and Henness Road has no traffic controls, no designated safe pedestrian crossings, no curb side pedestrian barriers, and no raised traffic medians; and

WHEREAS, there are several hundred hotel rooms on the south side of Florence Blvd. along this stretch, and many travel amenities such as convenience stores and other retail, restaurants, a health club, and a bank on the north side of this stretch of road; and

WHEREAS, this proximity of lodging opportunities, and vendors of groceries, snacks, beverages and other merchandise, being directly across the road from each other motivates people to risk crossing Florence Blvd. through the traffic during most hours of the day and evening; and

WHEREAS, these behaviors will very likely result in the future injury or death of pedestrians, and all the adverse effects that the drivers will experience, no matter who is at fault; and

WHEREAS, moderate-cost pedestrian crossing technologies, such as the High intensity Activated CrossWalk signals (HAWK signals) are available, approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and in use in other cities across the country including Tucson; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Casa Grande, on the 3rd day of March 2016, held a public meeting to consider the planning aspects of these factors; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Casa Grande considered all public comments made at said hearing, and determined that pedestrian safety is insufficiently provided for along the defined stretch of Florence Blvd.; and

WHEREAS, per City Code Section 17.08.060.I, it is stated that it shall be a duty of the Planning and Zoning Commission to provide recommendations to the city council concerning purchase of sites for city buildings and other city facilities, the widening, opening vacation or other changes to city streets or other public ways, the beautification of city sites, streets, grounds or premises and other issues that may tend to promote the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and welfare in connection with the city's general plan; and

WHEREAS, this code section authorizes Planning and Zoning Commission to make recommendations concerning the issue of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the area defined in this resolution, the portion of Florence Blvd. between Camino Mercado and Henness Rd., is largely within the *Community Center* land use designation of the General Plan; and

WHEREAS the *Community Center* land use designation promotes development that enhances the pedestrian environment; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Casa Grande, Arizona, as follows:

1. The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Casa Grande respectfully advises the Casa Grande Director of Planning and Development that the Planning and Zoning Commission strongly discourages submission or approval of developments in the stated area of Florence Blvd. that are likely to contribute to the hazardous character of that part of the thoroughfare, or to encourage pedestrians to risk crossing the road at undesignated places, until a safe crossing system and appropriate pedestrian barriers can be installed;
2. The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Casa Grande respectfully urges the Mayor and City Council of the City of Casa Grande Arizona, and the Director of Public Works of the City of Casa Grande Arizona, to do everything possible to rearrange priorities, and build and install at least one safe pedestrian crossing in the immediate area of the intersection of Florence Blvd. and Cacheris Court as soon as possible.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Casa Grande Arizona, this ____ day of _____, 2016

Planning & Zoning Commission Chairman