



Talk With the Hawk

We have a responsibility to hold speeders accountable – especially in our neighborhoods...

Speeding in our neighborhoods

A Note from Major Hawkins

Bureau of Community Policing Commander, Brentwood Police

Great news everyone – 2020 is almost over! What will 2021 bring us? New routines, patterns, and ways to socialize? A new perspective? An opportunity to stay healthy? While a new year means a lot of great new possibilities, some things remain the same. Our responsibility to ensure safe roads in our community remains the same, for example.

One of the main functions of a police department is to help provide safety and quality of life for its community and visitors. One of the most obvious ways to establish safety, especially in residential neighborhoods, is to enforce traffic laws. Speeding, stop sign violations... doesn't everyone speed or bump a stop sign every now and again? Maybe. What makes it so bad if you hustle to work or to an appointment? When you drive through Brentwood, are you thinking about the safety of your community and your neighbors? Or are you thinking about getting to work or home as quickly as possible? Who do you put at risk by speeding? By rolling a stop sign? I'm glad you asked. Here's a small list:

- Yourself
- Your passengers/family/children/pets
- Other drivers
- Their passengers/families/children/pets
- Pedestrians/Walkers/Joggers/Bikers
- Children playing in the street (one of the joys of childhood)
- Police as we patrol the neighborhoods

This list is (obviously) not all inclusive, but it certainly shows *the risk is NOT worth the reward*. I think we can all agree to that.

On about a weekly basis, we receive speeding complaints or stop sign violation complaints from our Alderpersons and our residents. We do our best to immediately address these concerns by visible enforcement and prevention measures, like our speed trailer (currently under repair but coming back in 2021).



The Brentwood Public Works Department, along with elected officials are extremely responsive to these concerns and have begun implementing speed cushions on some of our residential streets. While these types of measures help

slow down speeders, we still have a responsibility as law enforcement to issue citations to traffic violators – especially in the neighborhoods where you and your families live, play and relax.

At the Police Department, we have a running list of streets where speeding complaints are common. A few of those



are: Pine, High School, Litzsinger, Russel, Wrenwood, Rosalie and McKnight. We respond to these complaints as best we can. In some cases, that does mean issuing a citation.

While no one likes to give or receive a ticket, it is far better than responding to or being involved in an accident.

I encourage our Brentwood residents and visitors to make slowing down a New Year's resolution, *before* you see our lights. ☆

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