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June 7, 2004

The Honorable James K. Hahn  
City of Los Angeles  
200 North Spring Street, Room 303  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mayor Hahn,

At a recent meeting of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC) a vote was taken to request the installation of a new traffic light and crosswalk near the Porter Ranch Library. There is insufficient parking in the Library's lot today so many visitors now park on the east side of Tampa and must cross this very busy street. We fear that a terrible accident may occur.

The new light would be located, about ½ mile north of Rinaldi Street near the Porter Ranch Public Library, 11271 Tampa Avenue. A combination of a stop light and crosswalk will allow pedestrians who park on the east side of Tampa Avenue to cross safely when going to and from the Library.

Our reasons for this request are:

- 1) Inadequate parking now exists in the library parking lot and on the west side of Tampa Avenue which forces many library patrons to park on the east side of Tampa.
- 2) Crossing Tampa Avenue either alone or as in many cases, with children is dangerous and is becoming more dangerous every day due to the continual high speed of traffic and increased traffic volume resulting from housing development north and west of the library.
- 3) The average speed for north and southbound traffic on Tampa easily exceeds 40 mph and in some cases exceeds 60 mph. In both directions the road curves significantly near the library which presents a control issue for those cars that are traveling at high rates of speed. It is particularly dangerous driving southbound which is downhill which increases the speed of traffic in that direction.
- 4) The library is heavily used by children and the elderly many of whom are forced to park on the east side of Tampa due to lack of parking space. For these patrons safety is a primary concern as crossing the Street is a clear hazard.
- 5) The library has evening hours until 8:00 PM several nights a week. Given the speed and curves in the roadway, crossing the street at night is extremely dangerous. A cross walk and signal will protect patrons who must park on the east side of Tampa.

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6) The presence of the Los Angeles Fire Station #8 next door to the library further complicates the traffic issues at this location as the department vehicles move back and forth on Tampa Avenue immediately adjacent to the pedestrian traffic using the library.

7) Tampa Avenue has four lanes of traffic, two in each direction and is a very wide street to cross in any case. The width further challenges any patron/pedestrians in crossing the street.

For all of the above reasons, PRNC believes that a crosswalk and traffic sign should be installed to provide safe access to the Porter Ranch Public Library for all patrons. The situation is dangerous requiring prompt corrective action.

Captain Mike Franklin of the Fire Department supports the PRNC efforts and has asked that we also request that the signal light be wired to Fire Station #8 so that the flashing red lights can be turned on while backing the fire trucks into the station. In addition, the "Friends of Porter Ranch Library" actively support PRNC efforts to urge prompt action on the part of the City of Los Angeles to reduce the traffic pedestrian risk at this location.

Very truly yours,

Board of Directors  
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

cc Greig Smith  
Councilmember Twelfth District  
City of Los Angeles