

## Commission, Fire (FIR)

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**From:** geoffrey moore <moore\_geoffrey@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:45 PM  
**To:** FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); Commission, Fire (FIR)  
**Cc:** Breed, Mayor London (MYR)  
**Subject:** Thank you SF Fire Commission

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear SF Fire colleagues - I ask that you please respectfully consider forwarding this note of gratitude to the Fire Marshall Dan De Cassio and all his colleagues. I have noted his comments in this article: [https://avanan.url-protection.com/v1/url?o=https%3A//www.ktvu.com/news/fire-commissioner-says-safe-streets-sf-program-could-put-community-at-risk%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1HgEOB998AzNI3pTW1ODA1QsWwfyRIlp\\_V4qsTPOK6aCvkzKEEcUsgVdE&g=OTlwZjRkMWY1OTY4NTg4ZQ==&h=NTU3MTNjN2YzYTA3Mzc4OTVkbNTBIMjE0NTUxMDVhNGIwZTQyOWM1YjlkZTFhMmE0ZjRhOTVmMzM1YWU5ZjI4ZA==&p=YXAzOnNmZHQyOmF2YW5hbGpvcjVIZGI4Mjk4YjQwMDE4YzBkYjk0YW5kMzZmMzBjMmUxOnYx](https://avanan.url-protection.com/v1/url?o=https%3A//www.ktvu.com/news/fire-commissioner-says-safe-streets-sf-program-could-put-community-at-risk%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR1HgEOB998AzNI3pTW1ODA1QsWwfyRIlp_V4qsTPOK6aCvkzKEEcUsgVdE&g=OTlwZjRkMWY1OTY4NTg4ZQ==&h=NTU3MTNjN2YzYTA3Mzc4OTVkbNTBIMjE0NTUxMDVhNGIwZTQyOWM1YjlkZTFhMmE0ZjRhOTVmMzM1YWU5ZjI4ZA==&p=YXAzOnNmZHQyOmF2YW5hbGpvcjVIZGI4Mjk4YjQwMDE4YzBkYjk0YW5kMzZmMzBjMmUxOnYx)

I am grateful to observe that the right folks at the city are finally paying attention to this critical public safety issue. Outer Sunset residents such as myself are absolutely furious at the grossly negligent handling of the Upper Great Highway situation by certain elected public servants. We want traffic managed properly, not "calmed" and we are flabbergasted that purported safety concerns are causing such misguided treatment by the city and the substitution of new and significant safety concerns, apparently without any community input or independent data collection and analysis. I hesitate to think what havoc would be wreaked along the Lower Great Highway and outer sunset residents in the event of a major earthquake or tsunami when roads continue to be compromised. More realistically, as Mayor Breed already knows (and is copied again here) the city and its attorneys have previously been placed on written notice that the misguided traffic management programs are risking the lives of residents and could create significant legal risk and taxpayer expense for the city.

Please also note that the claim from SFMTA that the "Safe Streets" program is designed well is a complete lie. Jeffrey Tumlin has been actively discriminating against drivers and vehicles for far too long (and has been overheard to admit his bias), and the misguided SFMTA policies have now run out of room to the west to continue clogging the city with inefficient and poorly planned vehicle flow. The Safe Streets program is NOT designed well. To the contrary, the entire project has been poorly managed in a reactionary, inefficient, arbitrary, and negligent fashion. An example would be the hasty decision to close more street entry points along Lincoln and Sloat at LGH/48/47/ Avenues after folks started complaining of traffic - it just made things even worse, and was hastily mismanaged amidst other poor decisions. It insults everyone's intelligence in our community when we ask ourselves how and why public emergency vehicle transit needs are not being considered - let alone the needs of other vehicle drivers such as construction workers carrying supplies, shoppers carrying groceries, family members transporting children, and community members from other parts of the city who wish to visit our beaches with their families without carrying their baby strollers and beach chairs on multiple muni busses. Many of us are looking to the fire and police departments to assert their jurisdiction over the roads in lieu of misguided SFMTA management.

SFMTA already knows of the emergency vehicle issue - THIS CONCERN WAS RAISED TO THEM YEARS AGO during the public comment period when folks were discussing the addition of speed bumps along the Lower Great Highway. Please read that sentence again and review the public records to confirm this status, and then respectfully consider why SFMTA continues to assert that things have been planned well and the community continues to become even more

frustrated. The Lower Great Highway is a limited access road - we are pinned in against the ocean with nowhere to go in an emergency except deeper into poorly managed avenues, or on roads such as Sunset or 19th which continue to suffer from congestion. Please help further before the next emergency vehicle mishap on our increasingly clogged roads.

Thanks sincerely for your efforts as public servants - it is appreciated.  
Geoff Moore

## Commission, Fire (FIR)

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**From:** Jennifer C. [jennifer\\_carrico@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifer_carrico@hotmail.com)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** Commission, Fire (FIR)  
**Subject:** Please don't make Page St. a permanent Slow Street

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Esteemed Commissioners:

As I was unable to access yesterday morning's meeting, during which you were to discuss the state of the Slow Streets program, I am writing to you with regard to plans to permanently make Page Street a Slow Street.

Page Street was designated a Slow Street in response to a once-in-a-lifetime public health crisis. While the world slowed down in early response to COVID-19, and we all needed room to move and exercise safely and at a distance from each other, Slow Streets was an easy initiative to support.

As life has begun to return to some semblance of normal, so have some of our normal behaviors. We are no longer in need of additional wide open spaces for outdoor movement; many of us are now vaccinated and can return to work and commutes, and to cherished businesses, restaurants, and prior activities. The Page Street closure is no longer necessary - most pedestrians on Page have reverted to using the sidewalks, and we already have a robust parks and rec program to provide open spaces.

For me, a homeowner on Oak Street, the extended closure of Page St while normalcy returns has only exacerbated existing issues that we must cope with daily -- and I suspect the same for our Haight Street neighbors as well. As traffic returns to pre-pandemic rates, I am especially concerned about the public safety impacts of Page remaining closed. As someone who has experienced a house fire started by an aging gas wall furnace, and who relied on the SFFD to save my home, I fear this will lead to slower emergency response times because Page has become unsafe for emergency vehicles and Oak, especially at peak times, it too congested for them to move quickly.

SFMTA's own findings show that, while pedestrian volume on Slow Streets saw a weekday increase of just 17%, weekend volumes saw a decrease of 31%. (And bikes can already share the road with cars.) Utilization is likely to continue to decline as normal life resumes. It makes no real sense to continue the Page Street program in service of the few property owners who loudly support it at the expense of the safety of the many in the broader community. Nor does it make sense to vote to support permanent Slow Streets until utilization and community impacts can be studied after the COVID-19 crisis is over.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Carrico

## Commission, Fire (FIR)

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**From:** Helen Gekakis <helengekakis55@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 2:56 PM  
**To:** Commission, Fire (FIR)  
**Subject:** Page Street

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello,

I was unable to call in yesterday due to needing an access code which I took from your website that was invalid.

I have been complaining about the traffic on Oak Street since 2105 when I spoke at a SFMTA meeting, at numerous HVNA meetings, and to Mayor London Breed when she was my representative in Hayes Valley.

I have lived on Oak Street since 1996. Since the closure of Page Street, the traffic on Oak Street has increased as well on the side streets. You have closed 1.7 miles of roadway that runs parallels to one of the busiest streets in San Francisco. Common sense would ask why? People are getting vaccinated and SF is opening up for business. Even when Page was closed the street was empty because everyone was inside working. I walk Page at least 5 times a week. The amount of people using that street does not justify keeping it open. Page Street has sidewalks and you can access the Panhandle which is one block away to walk to the park. Please take a walk down Page and see for yourselves.

What about the response time for the Fire Department? I am well aware of the letters from the retired Fire Chief's and our current Fire Chief. Are you going to allow Page Street to remain closed while you have been placed on notice about the response time during a fire or city emergency? Please note on the intersection of Page and Broderick, residents have placed bricks as a barrier to prevent cars from entering. Who is overseeing the numerous blockades on Page Street that the Fire Department and emergency vehicles are going to have maneuver around to get to a fire? This needs to be addressed immediately as seconds matter in a fire.

By the way, Page Street has side walks which are wider than Oak Street. Also, I am not allowed to park on Page Street because I am not a residence of Page Street. Therefore, I get to fight the traffic on Oak and Fell to park!

Thank you for your consideration.

Helen Gekakis

## Commission, Fire (FIR)

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**From:** nancy pratt <npratt30@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 13, 2021 10:30 PM  
**To:** Commission, Fire (FIR)  
**Subject:** Couldn't access call in- Against closing Page st

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello- I tried to call yesterday but wasn't able to get through, the numbers I was given did nothing work. I live on Oak Street between Laguna and Octavia and I am a homeowner who is 100% against closing Page Street permanently. Since the slow streets have begun, traffic on Oak Street has gotten worse and I feel more in danger from the cars than ever before.

Pre-pandemic, traffic on Oak was getting bad and then we got a break, and now it is so bad that every morning and evening when I am trying to walk my dog, crossing Oak at either Laguna in the morning or Octavia anytime I am almost always nearly hit.

My next-door neighbor who also lives on Oak Street is 77 years old, has a physical disability and is almost run over every day at Oak and octavia. This is worse for her than it was before page Street was closed. And it was never good because there is never any traffic law enforcement.

If I ever am injured by a car at Oak in Laguna or Oak and Octavia the city is going to be 100% responsible since I've documented the danger and the city chooses to nothing to do about it.

Nancy Pratt  
203-291-9701