





# MERRIMACK POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Mark E. Doyle  
Chief of Police

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## MEMO

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**DATE: JULY 5, 2016**  
**TO: EILEEN CABANEL, TOWN MANAGER**  
**FROM: CHIEF MARK E. DOYLE**  
**RE: AGENDA REQUEST**

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I have attached an Agenda Request for the July 21<sup>st</sup> Town Council meeting for the purpose of requesting a change to Chapter #183 of the Town code titled "Vehicles and Traffic".

During our Highway Safety Committee meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, we heard from Ms. Deb Brancheau, a resident on Island Dr. who expressed concerns that there currently wasn't a "Stop" sign at the end of Island Dr. at the Intersection with DW Drive. After hearing her testimony, and some discussion, the committee agreed to install a Stop sign at that location to enhance motorist and pedestrian safety.

I have included the proposed wording change, as well as minutes from that meeting a backup material for your and the Council's review.

## Chapter 183, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

### § 183-10. Stop intersections.

The intersections described in Schedule IV, Stop Intersections (§ 183-31), are hereby designated as stop intersections.

### § 183-31. Schedule IV: Stop Intersections.

As provided in § 183-10, the following described intersections are hereby designated as stop intersections, and stop signs shall be installed as follows<sup>1</sup>:

*ADD:*

Street	Intersection	Qualifier
Island Drive	D.W. Drive	

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<sup>1</sup>Editor's Note: Stop signs shall be installed on streets listed in the first column, unless noted elsewhere.

- Stop Sign request on Corner of Island Drive and DW Drive – / Deborah Brancheau

**Deb Brancheau:**

I would like to express to the committee my concerns regarding the intersection where DW Highway comes down towards King Kone and branches off to DW Drive. There are a couple of house on the right, you then come up to Island Dr. and beyond that is Pondview Dr. where I live which is Horseshoe Pond complex I drive that section of DW Drive every day. My concern is that there are too many times I had to slam on my breaks for someone coming around that corner. This is a residential area were people are walking their dogs. If there was a stop sign for this area it would make it much safer for the residence.

**Chairman Chief Doyle:**

We have had a lot of discussion regarding stop signs in that area, Director Fox will give you a synopsis of our findings.

**Kyle Fox:**

Last year there were 2 requests for stop signs in that area and a stop or yield sign at the tear drop at Island Drive. The warrant for a stop sign is very particular; it takes in account the traffic volume and the number of accidents that occur in the area. In this case neither of those triggers the warrant.

As I mentioned this morning I went down to the area once again to assess the area. The sight distance for this area is really terrible for just the scenario that you were talking about. What I found looking at it this morning you cannot come out of Island Drive to DW Driveway without coming to a stop (for safety reasons). Until we come up with a more permanent solution it is my opinion that a stop sign would be warranted.

**Finlay Rothhaus :**

I want to make sure I know what part of the intersection you are talking about...

**Kyle Fox:**

As you come down east on Highland Drive from the boat ramp west on Highland Drive before you get to DW Highway.

**Bob L'Heureux:**

In my opinion a stop sign does not give a heads up for the traffic coming in. So if we are going to go that route would it make sense, if we are going to put a stop sign there and to also place a yield sign in front of Murray's house for the traffic that is coming down ?

**Chairman Chief Doyle:**

Now you are telling vehicles coming both ways into an intersection (interrupted) ...signs would be conflicting signs.

**Chairman Chief Doyle:**

A long term solution was being discussing earlier, discontinuing the section were you come off of DW Highway and continue down to Horseshoe Pond so that no through traffic would be allowed at that point.

For today, in this case, a stop sign does not comply with the warrant. I have no problem going to council if this committee thinks it is justified to have a stop sign on the corner of Island Dr. and DW Drive.

**Kyle Fox:**

There are provisions in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) regarding the geometry of a stop sign and this clearly is one of them.

**Chairman Chief Doyle:**

I would recommend erecting a stop sign at the section from Island Drive onto DW Drive as you travel west.

**Motion**

*A motion made by **Paul Konieczka** to erect a stop sign at the section from Island Drive onto DW Drive as you travel west, seconded by **Bob L'Heureux** motion carried unanimously.*

**Chairman Chief Doyle:**

Within in the next month or so I will pen an agenda request with Director Fox to be presented to Town Council. If approve by the town council the next step would be a public hearing and then a final reading.

**Kyle Fox:**

I recommend that we put a stop sign in this area now; knowing that it is not enforceable until the approval of town council.

**Everyone present in agreement.**

**Chairman Chief Doyle:**

I will inform our officers that this is not an enforceable traffic signal pending council approval.