

## Coffee with the Mayor

### Ser 19

Nothing special regarding coffee this period. Did enjoy a cup of English Grog coffee from Hometown Donuts. Ok, the main reason for stopping by was for the biscuits and gravy but adding a cup of coffee only added to the enjoyment. The B&G were for me, but did buy donuts for the office.

Why is everyone in such a hurry to get where they are going? If I were to document every phone call of concern I get the tally would reveal that traffic around town would be number 1! The comment always ends with the statement "someone is going to get hurt or killed".

The comments are of two types, drivers ignoring Stop signs and driving way above the speed limit for the area. At this point I will have to admit that, in the past, I might have been one of those types of drivers. I have had a number of speeding infractions in my younger days. Observing today's traffic, I can readily agree that most drivers seem to be in a hurry to get where they are going. We've all seen drivers rushing to beat it through a red stop light, slowing down instead of stopping at a stop sign or going faster than necessary on an available street or road.

When I receive a complaint about speeding at a certain location, I contact the Police Department which results in an increase in patrolling, or having a presence, at that location. This usually gets drivers' attention to slow down but only for a short time. Other than patrolling, there are a few options available to address the speed aspect. Additional Stop signs could be added at a point or points along the route hoping drivers would slow down to stop. Speed bumps (I've heard them called traffic calming fixtures) could be added as these usually get drivers' attention. Then there's electronic signs using radar to display the approaching drivers' speed. This hopefully makes the drivers aware of their speed and the speed limit with the intent of having them slow down.

Ignoring Stop signs and yellow/red lights are harder to address. Increase in police presence at an intersection will only work for a short period of time. I have seen red flashing lights placed on top Stop signs making them more visible. I observed this at the intersection of Lone Tree road (it will always be Lone Tree to me) and highway 48. Maybe this is something we should do at major intersections throughout the city. However, I suspect the drivers that ignore the Stop signs already know they are there. Then there's the stop lights. For some time there was a delay between one side turning yellow and the other side turning green. This was to allow for the drivers to clear the intersection before turning green. Once drivers understood this the delay became meaningless.

One observation I've made is street signs, i.e. Stop, Speed Limit, Construction, etc., have become almost invisible to the seasoned driver. Additional signs, while well meaning, do not address the problem. Several years ago there used to be commercials about driving

defensively or safe driving in general. There were even billboards promoting safe driving. Guess they're a thing of the past. Recent billboards deal with texting and driving! Maybe emphasis on safe driving in the mainstream media should be considered. As for City Hall, I would encourage all who read this to consider their driving habits and encourage family and friends to consider their driving habits as well. Personally, I, and I'm sure you, would hate to be the one that was responsible for getting "someone hurt or killed".

UPDATE: The Gas and Water Department has installed the water line at the area where the dog park will be. The fencing and shelter house should be installed by the end of October and signs for the Evan Witty Memorial Park should be installed by then as well! Looking forward to setting a date for the grand opening! Stay tuned!