



City of Sierra Madre

Office of the City Clerk

232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.,

Sierra Madre, CA

(626) 355-7135

THE BROWN ACT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMENTS AT ANY PUBLIC MEETING.

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING AND WILL BE POSTED ONTO THE CITY'S WEBSITE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPARENCY.

THE COMMENTS ATTACHED ARE SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE CITY DOES NOT CONFIRM THE VERACITY OF THE STATEMENTS PROVIDED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Amber Carrillo

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 12:57 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ordinance no. 1483

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I write to ask that the City Council consider the following in its first reading of Ordinance No. 1483.

- The Local Responsibility Area (LRA) as recommended by the State Fire Marshall covers land areas that are not congruent with parcel boundaries. For the parcels of land which are partially within one or more fire hazard severity zones, the City Council should consider whether Ordinance 1483 applies to the specific parts of land within each parcel or to the parcel as a whole, leaning on application of the more restrictive of either the **Moderate** (where the remainder of the parcel is not in any Fire Hazard Severity Zone) or **High** (where the remainder of the parcel is in the Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone) Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The City Council may, at its own discretion, extend the **Moderate** or **High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone areas to achieve this, without additional substantial findings required, according to Government Code Section 51179(b)(2).

SECTION 2

- The ordinance adopts a reference to a website, which may be changed at-will by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, consequentially requiring avoidable ordinance amendments. Therefore, please instead consider incorporating the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map as an exhibit attached to the ordinance.

SECTION 3

- In the LRA, applying the requirements of California Building Code Chapter 7A to the **Moderate** Fire Hazard Severity Zone is above and beyond the minimum requirements of the State Fire Marshal. According to them, California Building Code Chapter 7A need only apply to the **Very High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone. This requirement extends to the **High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone effective January 1, 2026. <https://calfire.app.box.com/s/7g915fy42bbp84ssd9no4xky6hmuozus>
- Government Code Section 51179(b)(2) gives the City Council the discretion to include areas not identified as **Moderate** or **High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the State Fire Marshal as Moderate or High. This means that if the City Council wants to apply the requirements of California Building Code Chapter 7A to the **Moderate** Fire Hazard Severity Zone, it should adopt a map which extends the **High** Fire Hazard Severity Zone area into all **Moderate** Fire Hazard Severity Zone land area (in other words, turn all the yellow area into orange)

area). https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=51179&lawCode=GOV

- The State Fire Marshal's model ordinance does not include a section which expresses requirements with California Building Code Chapter 7A or Defensible Space, which implies that those requirements are administered and enforced under separate laws and therefore do not need to be included in Ordinance No. 1483. When transmitting this ordinance to the State Fire Marshal, to avoid confusion and/or need for re-adoption, it might be best to follow the model ordinance more closely. <https://calfire.app.box.com/s/wv20oa8urwkab6xwmem7aq9jcpsswd2f>

Sincerely,

Sierra Madre Resident

Amber Carrillo

From: Katie Schubert [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 12:58 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment for May 27 meeting
Attachments: May 27 Letter to SM City Council.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Council members,

I am attaching a PDF letter as my statement of public comment for the May 27 City Council meeting. Please let me know if you have trouble receiving. I'm glad to having someone read this on my behalf at the meeting as well. Please reach out with any questions.

Best,
Lara K. Schubert

May 27, 2025

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to request that the City of Sierra Madre address the unsafe situation at the intersection of Auburn and Highland, outside of Sierra Madre Elementary School (SME). My child is a student at SME, and I have seen how unsafe this is for kids (and parents) trying to get to school.

Previously the school and the City have worked together to address a problematic traffic situation on N. Hermosa Ave and W. Highland Ave., making Hermosa a one-way street during school hours. This improved the situation greatly. I implore the City to address the pressing situation at Auburn Ave. and W. Highland Ave.

First, there is currently no crossing guard to ensure that elementary school kids and parents can cross safely. Multiple school volunteers who have previously served as crossing guards have been almost hit and refuse to continue to risk their safety to try to manage the intersection in a role this is not an official duty in their contracts. Because of this, there is currently no one to help ensure safe crossing. The city needs to immediately provide temporary traffic support to ensure that this volatile situation does not result in injury or worse for the many pedestrians, especially at start time for SME.

Second, the city needs to complete a traffic study or come up with a long-term plan to make this intersection safer. Whether this is a formal traffic study or simply a meeting between Sierra Madre Police and SME and/or other city agencies to brainstorm ideas, this needs to happen. Potential solutions might involve the City providing multiple crossing guards and/or changing the traffic flow similar to the solution for Hermosa.

I write because I care about the SME community, and I do not want to see this unsafe situation result in injury or death.

Thanks for your consideration and attention to this matter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lara Schubert', written in a cursive style.

Lara K. Schubert

Amber Carrillo

From: Carlo Olivares Paganoni [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 11:09 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Intersection Highland Ave & Auburn Avenue

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Sierra Madre City Council,

My family and I moved to Sierra Madre eight months ago, and one of the things we've most enjoyed is walking our daughter to and from Sierra Madre Elementary each day. We chose this city because of its reputation for being safe, family-oriented, and walkable.

I'm writing to express my concern about the safety of the intersection at Highland Avenue and Auburn Avenue, which is heavily used by students and families during school drop-off and pick-up. Without any crossing control in place, the intersection becomes congested and unpredictable, with cars approaching from multiple directions and drivers often in a hurry. It's become clear that this presents a real danger to children and caregivers who walk to school.

I understand that school staff used to help manage the crossing, but due to multiple close calls, they understandably stepped back from that role—it's not part of their responsibilities, and they cannot be expected to continue taking on that risk.

This gap in safety coverage is deeply concerning. Other nearby cities like Pasadena provide crossing guards for public schools, and I believe Sierra Madre should do the same—at least for this high-traffic intersection. A designated crossing guard during school start and dismissal would go a long way in keeping kids safe and maintaining our city's commitment to walkability.

Please consider prioritizing this intersection for a crossing guard. It's a small action that could make a major difference.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Carlo Olivares Paganoni

Sierra Madre Resident / Parent of a Sierra Madre Elementary Student

Amber Carrillo

From: Cacá Santoro [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 10:56 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City Council Meeting 4/27/25 - Intersection concern

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Sierra Madre City Council,

My family and I moved to Sierra Madre eight months ago, and it has been a joy to walk our five-year-old daughter to Sierra Madre Elementary School each morning and back in the afternoon. We chose this community because it feels safe, welcoming, and walkable—values we deeply appreciate as parents.

However, I'm writing to share a serious concern about the intersection of **Highland Avenue and Auburn Avenue**, directly adjacent to the school. During morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, this intersection becomes extremely busy and chaotic, with cars coming from multiple directions and drivers often distracted or in a rush. It is currently **uncontrolled**, and without a crossing guard, it poses a significant risk to children and families on foot.

I understand that this intersection previously had a crossing guard, but due to repeated near-miss incidents, Sierra Madre Elementary staff—who were voluntarily assisting—are no longer able to fill that role. It's not part of their job description, and understandably, the principal cannot require them to continue. As a result, the crossing has been left unprotected.

The City of Pasadena provides crossing guards for public schools within its boundaries. Unfortunately, Sierra Madre does not, leaving our local students at greater risk. Implementing a crossing guard at this single intersection would be a **modest cost to the city**, but it would have an enormous impact on the safety of our children.

I respectfully urge the City Council to consider assigning a trained crossing guard to Highland and Auburn during school start and dismissal times. A few minutes of support each morning and afternoon could help prevent a tragedy and reaffirm Sierra Madre's commitment to being a safe, family-friendly community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Carolina Santoro

Sierra Madre Resident and Parent

E Highland Ave, Sierra Madre



Amber Carrillo

From: Jaime Richter Stary [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Crossing guard at SME Auburn and Highland

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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I want to add my support to the cause for getting a police officer crossing guard at the intersection of Auburn and Highland, during the before and after school period at Sierra Madre Elementary School. Besides all the incidents I've heard from others, we have encountered a few incidents where drivers were not cautious, and there were some close calls when I was crossing the street with my kids. As pedestrians, lot of times we have backpacks, multiple children, and we're trying to pay attention to all the drivers, so we're very careful, but there have been times when I've had to grab my kid out of the crosswalk because a driver wasn't paying attention. Which is disconcerting, to say the least. I've also noticed many minor road rage incidents between drivers. A lot of times drivers just don't want to stop for people, but I'm sure they would stop for a police officer.

Please help protect the safety of our Sierra Madre kids by providing a police officer during these critical times when kids are trying to get to school.

Thanks for your time,
Jaime Richter Stary
Sierra Madre Resident
[REDACTED]

✉ from my [REDACTED]

Amber Carrillo

From: Kate Frey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] City crossing guard

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

The SME intersection at Auburn and Highland no longer has a crossing guard. After too many incidents of almost being hit, the SME staff are no longer willing to fill this role. It is not in their job descriptions, so Dr. Marchesso cannot require it. Without a crossing guard, the intersection is dangerous. The City of Pasadena provides crossing guards for the public schools within its city boundaries, but the City of Sierra Madre does not. The time and expense for the city would be modest, but it would make an immeasurable difference for SME kids' safety.

I have two middle school kids who walk to school from the Highland and Auburn intersection. They have witnessed numerous occasions where drivers ignore the school crossing guard. A city appointed crossing guard, would go a long way to help make this intersection safe.

Please consider adding this position to the city budget.

Thank you,

Kate Frey
[REDACTED]

Amber Carrillo

From: Ashlee Dilsaver [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 10:14 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent safety concerns at Highland & Auburn

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Dear City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing as a concerned resident and parent to bring your attention to serious safety issues at the intersection of Highland and Auburn, particularly during school drop-off and dismissal times near Carline.

This four-way intersection has become increasingly dangerous for pedestrians—especially children!!! I have personally witnessed and experienced several near-miss incidents where drivers have failed to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk, including myself and my 9 year old son. Thankfully, no one has been injured yet, but I fear it is only a matter of time if corrective action is not taken.

One of the most pressing concerns is the absence of a crossing guard during school hours. Many students walk to and from school on their own, and without adult supervision or enforcement, they are left vulnerable to distracted or impatient drivers.

Additionally, I've seen cars park directly in the crosswalk, forcing children to walk around them—either in front or behind—putting them further into traffic. Drivers in the car line often show little regard for pedestrian safety or for maintaining an orderly, courteous flow of vehicles.

I urge the city to consider implementing immediate safety measures at this intersection, such as:

- Assigning a crossing guard during school commute hours
- Adding clearer signage and road markings for crosswalks
- Enforcing no-parking zones near the intersection
- Exploring the possibility of traffic-calming measures or increased patrol/ticketing during peak hours

I, along with other members of the community, would greatly appreciate the city's attention to this issue before an avoidable accident occurs. Please let me know how we can support any efforts to improve the safety of our neighborhood for our children and all residents.

Sincerely,
Ashlee dilsaver Schauer

[REDACTED]

Sierra Madre 91024

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Amber Carrillo

From: Ali Clark [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 8:15 AM
To: Public Comment
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent Safety Concern: Need for Crossing Guard at Highland and Alburn Crosswalk - Sierra Madre Elementary

Follow Up Flag: Flag for follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Dear Sierra Madre City Council,

I am writing to express a significant safety concern regarding the crosswalk at the intersection of Highland and Alburn, regularly utilized by students attending Sierra Madre Elementary School. As a parent of a 7 and 10-year-old who cross this intersection daily between 2:15 PM and 2:45 PM, I have personally observed instances of concerning road rage from drivers impatient with waiting for students to cross.

The current situation poses a considerable risk to the safety of our children. It is my sincere hope and strong recommendation that the City of Sierra Madre consider providing a dedicated crossing guard at this location during school dismissal hours. Proactive measures are crucial to prevent a regrettable incident.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter. Ensuring the safety of our children is paramount.

Sincerely,

Ali Clark
[REDACTED]

[EXTERNAL] Congratulations!

Catherine Adde <catherine.a@travelstore.com>

Tue 5/27/2025 2:55 PM

To:Public Comment <publiccomment@sierramadreca.gov>;

Importance: High

CAUTION: This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.

Congratulations to the winners of the book mark contest from this Library Trustee!

Also thank you Sierra Madre Civic Club for being 'the treasures of Sierra Madre' as our premiere volunteer organization. I am grateful to you all for your service to our community!

best,
Catherine Adde
Library Trustee and Civic Volunteer

Catherine Addé, MA, CTC
Certified Travel Counselor ®
[626-639-2614](tel:626-639-2614) direct line
[626-795-0291](tel:626-795-0291) travel agency
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