

# ARCADIA CENTRAL

June 2017

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## ACMNA Newsletter

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July 4th, 2017

Arcadia's own  
Independence Day  
Parade

### ACMNA BOARD MEETINGS

The Association Board of Directors meet at 5:30 PM on the first Thursday of the month (Except July and August) at Prince of Peace, Room 14.

These meetings are open to the public and Arcadia residents are encouraged to attend. Agendas are posted 5 days prior to meetings at:

[www.acmna.org/agendas](http://www.acmna.org/agendas)

Upcoming Board  
Meetings:

September 7, 2017

56<sup>th</sup> St. 5600 E

## Progress Report

Since late February, the newly formed SAVES\* and Connects 56<sup>th</sup> Street Group has been quite busy. We have combined the initial efforts of concerned parents and residents of the Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association (AONA) with the needs of ACMNA residents. Our monthly meetings include representatives from the Phoenix Streets Department, a traffic engineer from CivTech, leaders from local parent/teacher associations, a representative from the District 6 Council Office, and members from both ACMNA and AONA.

The City requested we gauge support from families with children attending our local schools. A survey was crated in coordination with Councilman DiCiccio's office to address just that. The survey was sent out directly via email by each school to individual families. Over 600 parents responded to the three questions and the results were astonishing as shown in the graphs. Most surprisingly, we also received over 250 written feedback comments from parents. A clear case has been made to enhance the pedestrian and bicycle connectivity of 56<sup>th</sup> Street. It's obvious there is a definite need to calm traffic and control speed. Safety for school children is the primary concern. However joggers, bicyclists, and pedestrians will use it too, so everyone can enjoy 56th Street.

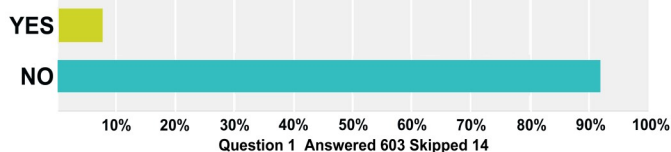
The main work so far has been to generate the necessary supporting information for our case with the City. Besides surveys, letters from schools, churches, neighborhood associations, and civic leaders such as Representative Maria Syms, Councilman Sal DiCiccio and Village Planning

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[\* Safety, Aesthetics, Volume, Enjoyment, Speed]

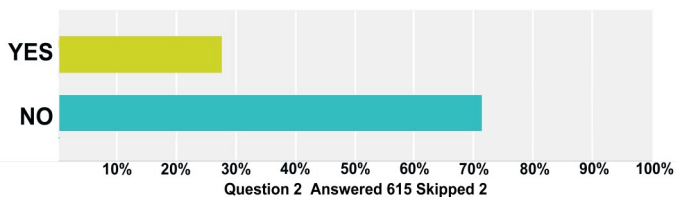
### Question 1

Do you and your family feel safe walking or biking along 56th Street currently?



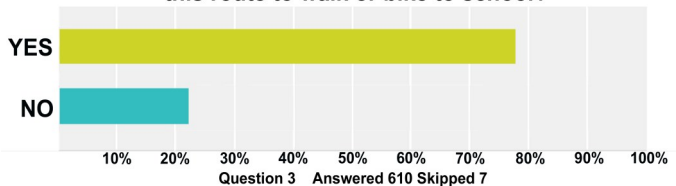
### Question 2

Do you or a family member have any children who currently walk or bike to school along 56th Street?

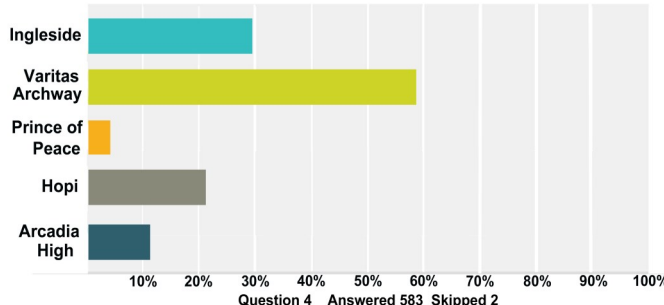


### Question 3

If improvements were made to the street and sidewalks to increase safety for pedestrians and bicyclists along 56th Street, would your children be more likely to use this route to walk or bike to school?



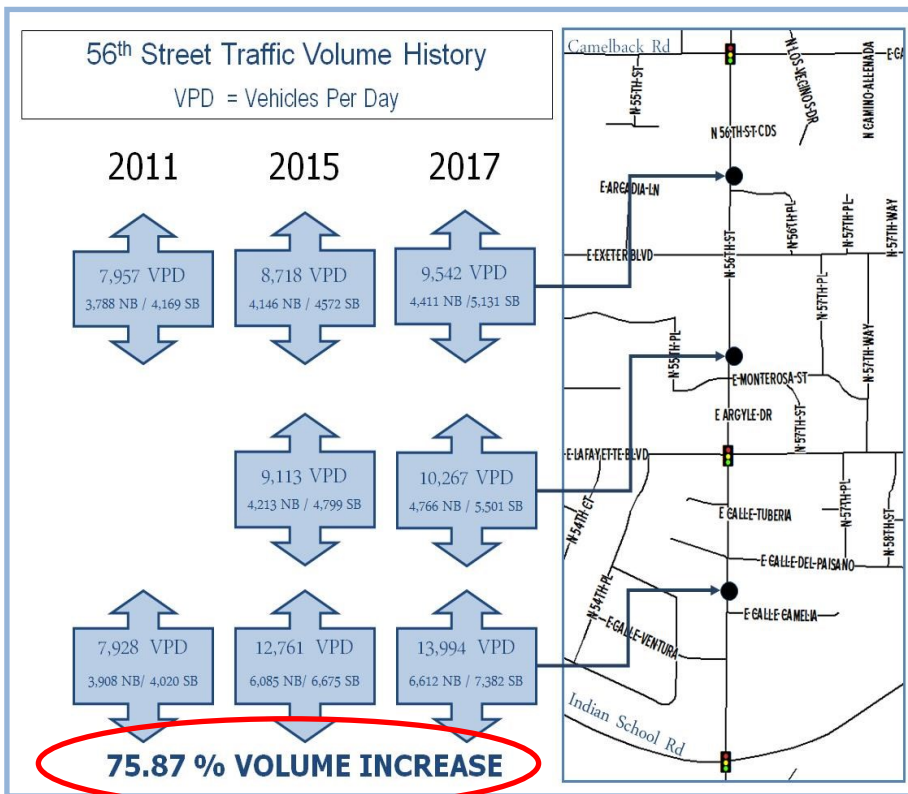
### What school does your child or children attend?





Committee Chairman Jay Swart have made an impact. In short, we are actively engaged in securing grants to generate funding resources as a part of our planning process. The committee has already applied for several grants and has already been awarded the first one to fund the sustainable aspects of our proposal.

The City has pushed back one final time with concerns about 56<sup>th</sup> St. Residents potentially objecting to changes in their street. This summer we will be reaching out to the affected homeowners on 56th St. to gather their feedback with regard to the project. No road work will begin without open community engagement meetings, but it's critical we understand any and all concerns as early as possible. Please use the ACMNA website [www.acmna.org/56th-street/](http://www.acmna.org/56th-street/) to share your opinions and concerns. To stay informed see [www.acmna.org/56th-street-blog/](http://www.acmna.org/56th-street-blog/)



## Update on Group Homes

Small group homes can be a valuable asset to communities of at risk seniors, people with mental disabilities, and recovering addicts. But, as too many of you have found out in recent years, they can also create serious problems for our neighborhoods. The issue was compounded in 2015 when City of Phoenix staff, without the advice of consent of Mayor and Council, simply stopped enforcing spacing requirement that ensured these businesses wouldn't end up dominating our neighborhoods. As some of your neighbors will attest, that failure has had tragic consequences for the peace and quality of life in too many of our communities – communities which have effectively been taken over by these facilities.

First, the good news. As of Monday, May 15, the City has agreed to begin enforcing the spacing requirement once again. The pressure and attention to this issue that you provided working with our office and others made that happen, and we thank you for it. The spacing requirement alone, however, isn't enough. At the end of the day, these are businesses, and they need to be licensed and zoned like businesses. We also need to stop being required to treat all three categories of group homes -which have hugely different purposes and clientele – the same.

To that end, my office has been leading the charge, working with Rep. Trent Franks' office and reaching out to our state officials to create better, more permanent solutions to these issues. Right now, the near total absence of oversight for these businesses is putting not just our neighborhoods at risk, but leaves the people counting on these facilities in jeopardy as well. We wouldn't allow a day-care facility to operate without anyone on hand who is trained to take care of children, and we shouldn't allow these businesses to operate without proper licensing and trained personal, either.

With your help, we will continue to fight hard to create better solutions for all of us going forward.

Sincerely,

Sal DiCiccio,

Phoenix City Council, District 6

[council.district.6@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.6@phoenix.gov)





# Safety in the Home and Neighborhood

I would like to reiterate the leash law within the City of Phoenix, an ordinance that could yield a civil or criminal citation if violated. I am not going to dissect the law with you but I am going to ask that you please share with your groups the importance of maintaining control of your dogs on lead whenever you are not within a designated dog park or a FENCED front or rear yard.

Like many of you I am a dog lover and a responsible dog owner. As responsible dog owners we must abide by the city code and more so respect those who are not comfortable with our pets off leash. Yesterday a woman in my area sustained injuries when a dog off leash ran up to her knocking her down while a scuffle took place.

This issue has been a long-standing issue in our area and in the past I have focused my efforts on gaining compliance through education and documented verbal warnings. In some cases this approach has not worked as I have repeatedly contacted some of the same people who continually violate the law, despite being warned and/or receiving citations.



The leash law is in place to protect ALL citizens of our city. And it also acts as a potential buffer from civil litigation if your off leash dog attacks another dog or a person.

Some of our heavily violated areas are our city parks where our citizens share the responsibility to ensure a safe environment for all. A dog off leash in a city park can create an uncomfortable and an unsafe environment. I would ask that you consider others before unleashing your dogs in a park and consider the consequences you may face if you choose to violate this law. A complaint to the police department requires our response and takes us away from the more pressing issues in your area.

I will be changing my approach and response to dogs at large. After a violation the initial contact will result in a documented warning if you are contacted again and found to be in violation, you will receive the appropriate citation.

Please help me help you, by keeping your dogs on leash. I promise you my time is better served in your neighborhoods focusing my efforts on the property crimes plaguing our area.

You can review the Phoenix City Code here;

<http://www.codepublishing.com/AZ/Phoenix/frameless/index.pl?path=../html/Phoenix08/Phoenix0814.html>

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ACMNA Newsletter | [arcadiacentral.com](http://arcadiacentral.com)

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*Preserving our neighborhood starts with you.*

## 22nd Annual Arcadia 4th of July Parade and Pot Luck

See details at:

[www.acmna.org/new-events/2017/july-4-parade](http://www.acmna.org/new-events/2017/july-4-parade)

## Keeping Arcadia Safe and Informed

### “Instead of Giving Change, Make a Change!”

Several members of the ACMNA recently attended a workshop put on by the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department in which we were provided tools to find ways to help support our neighbors and neighborhood. One of the issues addressed was homelessness.

We learned there is a valuable website and hotline devoted to providing assistance to those in need. The website is <http://211arizona.org> or the phone number is simply 211. 211 provides community information and referral services.

On a flier we were given for 211, it states, “If you really want to help the homeless, don’t give money to panhandlers. Give your donation or time to a local organization that can help people in need move their lives forward.”

The website is not only a tool for providing assistance to those in need, but is also a great place to find information on how you can donate your time, talent or treasures to organizations across the state that work directly with those in need.

When you see someone in need, direct them to call 211 or to access the website.

ACMNA has ordered wallet cards with this information to hand out to the homeless we may encounter in our neighborhood. We will also have these cards available at our monthly meetings.

