

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**TO:** Parking and Public Improvements Commission

**FROM:** Richard Thompson, Director of Community Development  
Nhung Madrid, Management Analyst  
Erik Zandvliet, Traffic Engineer

**DATE:** August 28, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Consider a Request for a One-Way Street and Narrowing on Deegan Place between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Parking and Public Improvements Commission pass a motion to restrict traffic to one-way southbound on Deegan Place and paint temporary bulb-outs at the crosswalk on a trial basis and return with an evaluation after 6 months.

**BACKGROUND:**

On June 3, 2014, the City received a letter from Monsignor John F. Barry, Pastor of American Martyrs Catholic Church, to implement the following measures:

1. Restrict traffic on Deegan Place to one way northbound;
2. Narrow the street to a 15-foot wide lane;
3. Install a decorative raised crosswalk between the church and the parking lot;
4. Install landscaping in the widened parkway on Deegan Place; and
5. Install vehicle and pedestrian related signs on Deegan Place.

The letter (Exhibit 1) states that there are a large number of pedestrians that use the crosswalk for church services and functions, and the measures will enhance public safety and reduce the potential for collisions with pedestrians. A narrowed street will reduce the distance to cross the street, and one-way traffic will eliminate the possibility of collisions from one direction. A wider parkway and pedestrian warning signs will improve driver awareness of possible pedestrians.

**DISCUSSION:**

Deegan Place is a 30-foot wide local residential street that carries approximately 610 vehicles per day and has a speed limit of 25 mph. Deegan Place is stopped at 14<sup>th</sup> Street to the south and 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the north. Deegan Place is about 260 feet long. 14<sup>th</sup> Street is a 30-foot wide local residential that carries approximately 600 vehicles per day and has a speed limit of 25 mph. 14<sup>th</sup> Street is stopped in both directions at Deegan Place. 15<sup>th</sup> Street is a 30-foot wide local residential street that carries approximately 1,400 vehicles per day and has a speed limit of 25 mph. 15<sup>th</sup> Street is not stopped at Deegan Place. Deegan Place is improved with curbs, gutters and sidewalks on both sides. Curb parking is allowed on both sides, with disabled curb parking spaces along the west side. Curb parking demand is generally heavy on the east side during the

day due to the adjacent church offices, and moderate at night. Disabled parking is primarily used on Sundays and during special events. Deegan Place has a downhill slope in the northbound direction.

There is a painted crosswalk on Deegan Place approximately 65 feet south of 15<sup>th</sup> Street that connects the church on the west side to the parking lot on the east. (See Exhibit 2) The crosswalk aligns with the entrances to both the parking lot and main church doors. It is visible from 15<sup>th</sup> Street as drivers enter Deegan Place. There are no existing crosswalk signs. There are also crosswalks on the east and south leg of the intersection at 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Deegan Place.

The adjacent properties along Deegan Place are owned by American Martyrs Catholic Church, with the exception of the home at 645 14<sup>th</sup> Street located on the northwest corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Deegan Place.

### **Existing Conditions**

Field observations were made on typical days during peak and non-peak periods. Field observations confirm traffic volumes on Deegan Place and other physical characteristics along the street as noted above. Proper right-of-way is assigned by stop signs on the north and south ends of Deegan Place. The existing crosswalk has good visibility for both drivers and pedestrians, except that drivers entering from 15<sup>th</sup> Street may not expect a mid-block crosswalk. Speeds on Deegan Place are typically under 25 mph due to the short street segment and narrow width.

A three-day traffic count was conducted on Deegan Place between August 15 and 17, 2014. The counts included Friday, Saturday and Sunday conditions on a typical weekend. A summary of the traffic counts is provided below:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>NORTHBOUND</b>	<b>SOUTHBOUND</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Friday, August 15	293	313	606
Saturday, August 16	246	358	604
Sunday, August 17	313	307	620
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>610</b>

Traffic volume is higher than expected for a local residential street primarily due to church related traffic and convenient access to and from residences to the south. Northbound and southbound traffic volumes are similar, however, on an hourly and daily basis.

The traffic collision history between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2012 was analyzed for the street segment. According to City records, there have been no collisions reported in this street segment during this seven (7) year period.

### **Marked Crosswalks**

The California Vehicle Code Section 275 defines a crosswalk as:

1. That portion of a roadway included within the prolongation or connection of the boundary lines of sidewalks at (an) intersection where the intersecting roadways meet at

approximately right angles, except the prolongation of such lines from an alley across a street.

2. Any portion of a roadway distinctly indicated for pedestrian crossing by lines or other markings on the surface.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, there shall not be a crosswalk where local authorities have placed signs indicating no crossing.

The primary purpose of a painted crosswalk is to encourage pedestrians to cross at the optimum location by providing positive guidance and control and/or where a recommended crossing may not be obvious to the pedestrian. The existing crosswalk on Deegan Place is located directly between the entrances of the parking lot and church. The crosswalk is painted here to channelize pedestrians to one central location rather than all along Deegan Place. It would be impractical to require all pedestrians to cross at 15<sup>th</sup> Street because it is already legal to cross mid-block in a residential area. Also, the only way to prevent midblock crossings would be to construct a physical barrier.

The existing crossing location could be made even safer by installing pedestrian warning signs, painting high visibility crosswalk markings, constructing a decorative crossing and/or a raised crosswalk. The parkways between 15<sup>th</sup> Street and the existing crosswalk can also be landscaped to redirect pedestrians to the crosswalk only.

### **One-Way Southbound Traffic**

American Martyrs Church requested that Deegan Place be restricted to one-way traffic in the northbound direction. The Traffic Engineer has evaluated the request and determined that either northbound or southbound only traffic flow would reduce the potential for pedestrian collisions. This is because vehicles would only be expected to approach the crosswalk from only one direction. In addition, a one-way street can be narrowed to one lane, which decreases the crossing distance, further reducing exposure to pedestrians. The additional parkway width gained by reducing the street width could be used for a wider sidewalk and/or landscaping. A one-way street would need to be posted with appropriate signs to indicate one-way traffic flow at the north end and “DO NOT ENTER” at the south end.

The Fire Department reviewed this request and determined that a one-way street would not significantly impact emergency response, as long as the turning radii and vehicle access is preserved (See Exhibit 5). Also, both the Fire Marshall and Police Traffic Sergeant prefer the one-way designation in the southbound direction rather than northbound, because most emergency responses on Deegan Place are in the southbound direction. That way, vehicle conflicts would be minimized when emergency vehicles use Deegan Place. The Fire Department is opposed to a complete street closure because Deegan Place is a designated response route for the church, residences and apartments located south of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

It would be expected that there would be adjustments in traffic circulation required for some church visitors and residents in the immediate vicinity due to one-way traffic flow. Approximately 300 northbound motorists would be redirected to Ardmore Avenue via 14<sup>th</sup> Street or Laurel Avenue via 13<sup>th</sup> Street in order to drive to the north. Since Deegan Place is not considered a through street, almost all traffic is locally oriented. Conversely, traffic volume on 15<sup>th</sup> Street would be expected to decrease by approximately 300 vehicles per day.

If Deegan Place is permanently designated a one-way street, an environmental assessment should be made to determine if there are any significant environmental impacts. For this reason, staff recommends a temporary trial period in which a one-way street is tested with removable signs and striping before considering a permanent change. The results of the trial would be returned to the Commission for a public discussion to determine whether the trial was successful and if there were unintended traffic impacts.

### **Public Notice**

All residents and property owners located in the neighborhood bounded by 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, Laurel Street to the east, Manhattan Beach Boulevard to the south and Ardmore Avenue to the west were notified by mail and were invited to give input to the Commission. The general public was also notified of tonight's meeting through an ad in The Beach Reporter that was published the weeks of August 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. (Exhibits 6 & 7) The City has received several emails in opposition to a one-way street, which are included in Exhibit 7. A letter from Ms. Jeanne Weber, the property owner of 645 14<sup>th</sup> Street, in support of the Church's request is also attached.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Based on the Traffic Engineer's analysis and expected pedestrian safety benefits, staff recommends that the Parking and Public Improvements Commission pass a motion to restrict traffic to one-way southbound on Deegan Place and paint temporary bulb-outs at the crosswalk on a trial basis and return with an evaluation after 6 months.

- Exhibits:
1. American Martyrs Church Community Request and Plan
  2. Site Photos
  3. Aerial Photo
  4. Vicinity Map
  5. Fire Department Memo
  6. Mailed Public Notice
  7. Public Comments

EHZ

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AMERICAN MARTYRS  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**EXHIBIT 1**  
8/28/14 PPIC

June 3, 2014



**Hand Delivered**

Erik Zandvliet, T.E.  
City Traffic Engineer  
City of Manhattan Beach  
1400 Highland Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Re: Request for Implementation of Plan to Address Serious and Significant Public Safety Issues on Deegan Place by Restricting Traffic to a Single, One-Way Lane

Dear Erik,

Thank you for collaborating with us to address our serious concerns with public safety on Deegan Place. We are encouraged to know that the City shares our concern, and we are grateful for your suggestions and proposals for a long-term solution that will effectively mitigate the imminent danger to pedestrians while providing unobstructed access to emergency vehicles.

As you know, thousands of our parishioners, residents and visitors cross Deegan Place to attend celebrations in our church, including weekday and weekend Masses, school Masses, weddings and funerals, Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Easter, Christmas, Holy Days, Baccalaureates, graduations, concerts, and many, many other religious, secular and community events. Currently all of these people compete with vehicles traveling north and southbound on Deegan, driving to, from and through the surrounding neighborhood, parking along Deegan, Church, 15th and 14<sup>th</sup> streets in both restricted and handicapped spaces, and dropping off or picking up passengers in front of the church. Recent traffic accident tragedies resulting in pedestrians being killed or suffering serious injury in Santa Monica, Venice and Austin, Texas and other streets with large numbers of pedestrians around the country have made us acutely aware of the inherent danger in permitting vehicle interaction between vehicles and large groups of pedestrians. Therefore, it is imperative that the City institute reasonable measures to protect our people from the risk of injury or death, whether from a drunk (Austin), impaired (Santa Monica) or malicious (Venice) driver.

Consequently, consistent with our discussions, we respectfully request the City implement the following plan, which is further illustrated in the attached sketch:

1. narrow Deegan Place directly in front of the Church to a single, 15 foot wide, lane of traffic;
2. restrict traffic flow on Deegan Place to one-way in a northerly direction;
3. permit installation of stamped asphalt (or alternative material) and a raised crosswalk on Deegan Place;
4. permit enhanced landscaping along east and west sides of Deegan Place, including removal and replanting of trees and installation of landscaping to direct pedestrians out of the street and into the crosswalks; and
5. install informational and directional signage at the entrances to Deegan Place and pedestrian zone signage at the cross-walk.

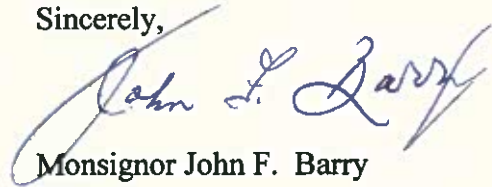
The reconfiguration of Deegan Place to single lane of one-way traffic with a prominent crosswalk and clear signage will enhance public safety and reduce the likelihood of injury in three ways. First, it will substantially reduce and limit the opportunity for interaction between pedestrians and moving vehicles. Pedestrians will cross 15 feet of traffic instead of the current 35 feet to reach the church and will navigate a single lane of cars instead of the current two. Second, the plan will increase focus and visibility. Both driver and pedestrian will be able to focus their attention in a single direction without the distraction of opposing or oncoming traffic. Pedestrians crossing Deegan will be encouraged to cross at designated locations with the use of trees and landscaping and will have a clear view of cars approaching from the higher elevation to the south; drivers entering Deegan heading northbound will have a clear view of pedestrians crossing down the street. Third, the proposed configuration of Deegan Place will slow traffic directly in front of the church and discourage unnecessary through traffic to and from the surrounding streets. Northbound traffic will be slowed naturally by the combination of single lane configuration, raised sidewalk and visible signage; southbound traffic, whether originating from Valley/Ardmore, Laurel/Pacific, or school drop off and pick up will be prohibited.

Although a solid barrier, such as the removable or retractable bollards we originally proposed, would offer greater protection for pedestrians, the proposed plan substantially mitigates the danger and addresses the Fire Department's concern with unobstructed access to the church and neighboring homes. Emergency response times will be unaffected by the reconfiguration of Deegan Place to a single 15" lane of traffic.

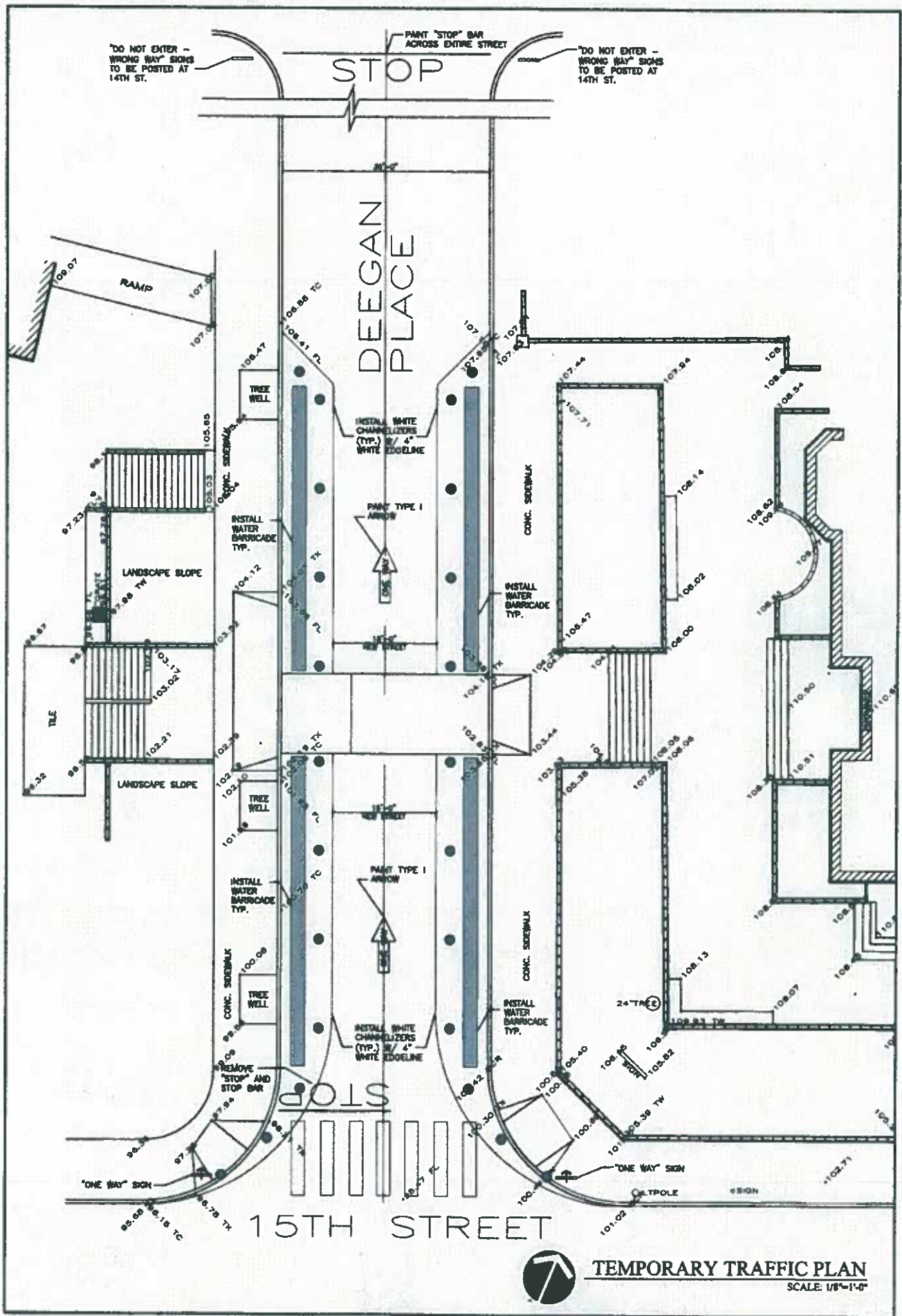
Again, thank you for working with us to develop this step toward achieving our shared goal of protecting the people of our Church and our City from the risk of serious traffic injury. We look forward to your response to our request and to working with you to put our plan into action as

soon as possible. Please feel free to contact my Business Manager, Bob Hodges, if you have any questions or need any additional information in support of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John F. Barry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Monsignor John F. Barry  
Pastor  
American Martyrs Catholic Community



DO NOT ENTER -  
WRONG WAY SIGNS  
TO BE POSTED AT  
14TH ST.

STOP

DO NOT ENTER -  
WRONG WAY SIGNS  
TO BE POSTED AT  
14TH ST.

DEEGAN  
PLACE

STOP

15TH STREET



TEMPORARY TRAFFIC PLAN  
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"

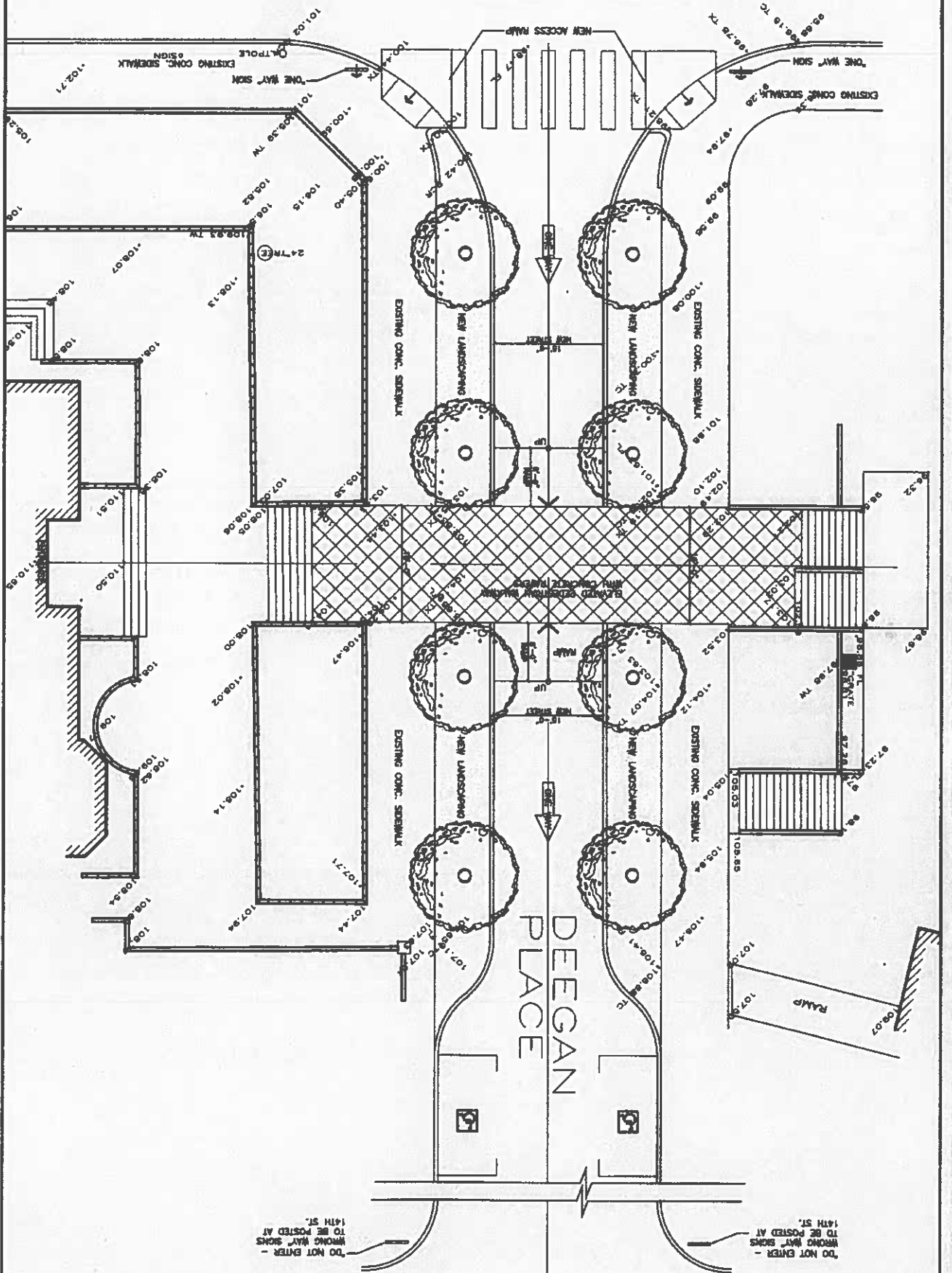


PROPOSED SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



15TH STREET



DO NOT ENTER -  
WRONG WAY SIGNS  
TO BE POSTED AT  
14TH ST.

DO NOT ENTER -  
WRONG WAY SIGNS  
TO BE POSTED AT  
14TH ST.

**EXHIBIT 2  
SITE PHOTOS**



Deegan Place at 15<sup>th</sup> Street Looking South



Deegan Place at 14<sup>th</sup> Street Looking North

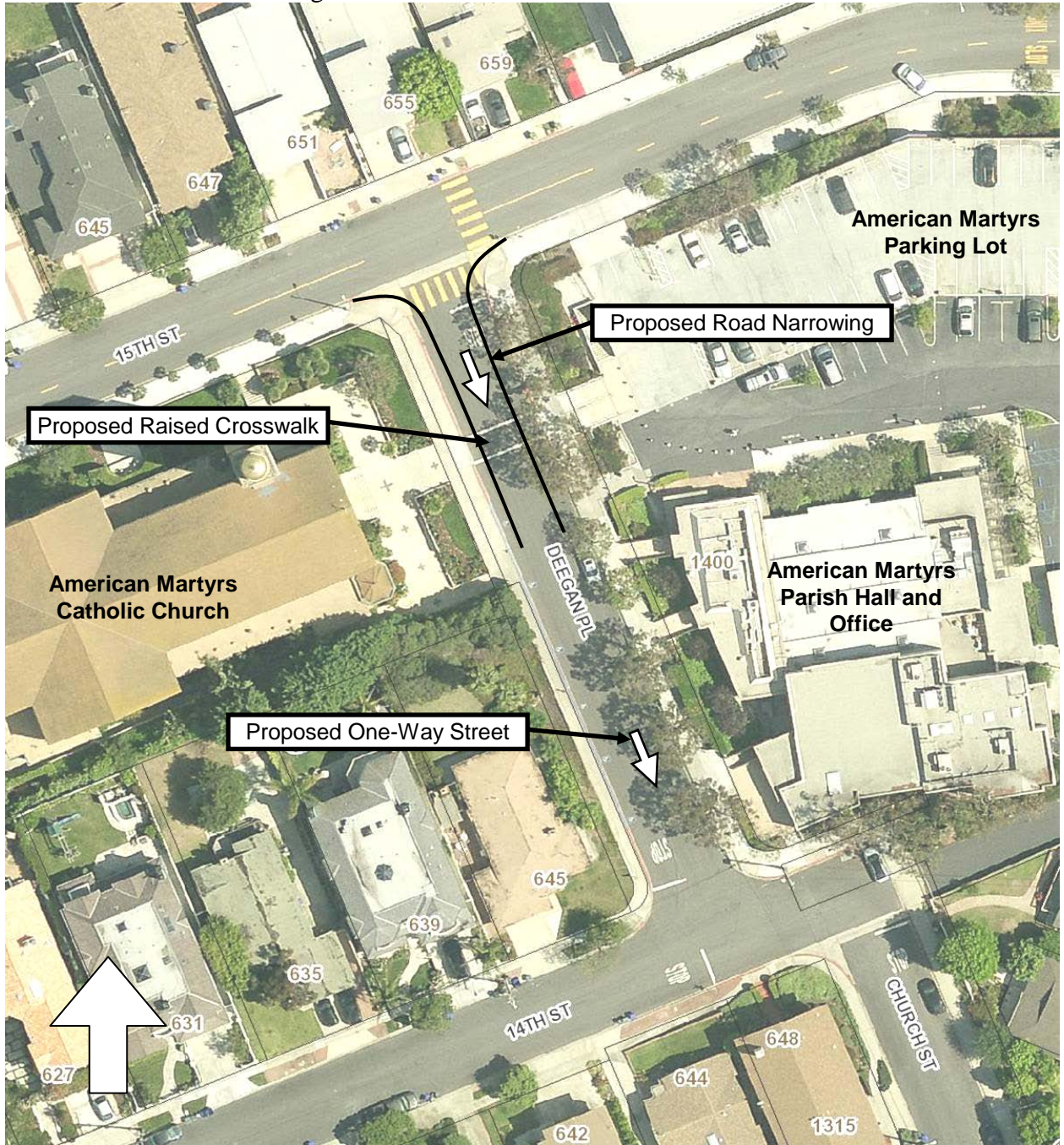


Crosswalk on Deegan Place South of 15<sup>th</sup> Street (East Side)



Crosswalk on Deegan Place South of 15<sup>th</sup> Street (West Side)

**EXHIBIT 3**  
**AERIAL PHOTO**  
Deegan Place Between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 15<sup>th</sup> Street



**Exhibit 4**  
Vicinity Map





**MANHATTAN BEACH FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**

400 15<sup>TH</sup> Street

Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Telephone (310) 802-5205

Cell (310) 345-0464

April 2, 2014

Nhung Madrid  
Community Development Senior Management Analyst

**EXHIBIT 5**  
8/28/14 PPIC

Re: American Martyrs Church Street Closure Request

This letter responds to your request to provide information concerning closing off Deegan Place and the effect it would have on Fire Department Services.

A closure of Deegan Place at any time will lengthen fire apparatus response times in the event of an emergency in the areas of Laurel Avenue, the Laurel Square Development, the 500-648 block parcels of 14<sup>th</sup> street and the 500-740 block parcels of 13<sup>th</sup> Street.

In the event of a medical or fire emergency in those particular areas Station One units respond east on 15th Street and continue south on Deegan Place to reach those addresses. This is the quickest and most efficient route as we are limited in using Ardmore Avenue from the west because of access and one way issues.

Sincerely,

Lou Petroni  
Fire Marshal

# PUBLIC MEETING

## PROPOSED ONE-WAY STREET CONVERSION ON DEEGAN PL BETWEEN AMERICAN MARTYRS CHURCH AND THE PARKING STRUCTURE



The Parking and Public Improvements Commission (PPIC) will conduct a public meeting to consider the conversion of Deegan Place to a one-way street in the southbound direction between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, specifically between American Martyrs Church and the parking structure. The purpose of the change is to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on this block.

**PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION MEETING**  
**August 28, 2014 at 6:30 P.M.**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach**

All interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate. The Staff Report will be available at [www.citymb.info](http://www.citymb.info) on August 21, 2014 after 5:00 P.M. For additional information, please contact Nhung Madrid at (310) 802-5540 or email at [nmadrid@citymb.info](mailto:nmadrid@citymb.info).



## PROPOSED ONE-WAY STREET CONVERSION ON DEEGAN PLACE BETWEEN AMERICAN MARTYRS CHURCH AND THE PARKING STRUCTURE

The Parking and Public Improvements Commission (PPIC) will conduct a public meeting to consider the conversion of Deegan Place to a one-way street in the southbound direction between 14th and 15th Streets, specifically between American Martyrs Church and the parking structure. The purpose of the change is to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on this block.

### PARKING AND PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMISSION

- PUBLIC MEETING -

**WHEN:** August 28, 2014 at 6:30 PM  
**WHERE:** City Hall Council Chambers  
1400 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach

Interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate. The Staff Report will be available at [www.citymb.info](http://www.citymb.info) on August 21, 2014 after 5:00 PM. For additional information, please contact Nhung Madrid at (310) 802-5540 or email at [nmadrid@citymb.info](mailto:nmadrid@citymb.info).

**EXHIBIT 6**  
8/28/14 PPIC

**EXHIBIT 7**

8/28/14 PPIC

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**Nhung Madrid**

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**From:** phil <pejohnson4@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 3:27 PM  
**To:** Nhung Madrid  
**Subject:** Public Meeting August 28, 2014 (Parking and Public Improvements Commission)  
**Attachments:** One way street.doc

I will be out of town on August 28th, but I want to express my opposition to the conversion of Deegan Place to a one-way operation.

I have attached a letter I would like the committee to include in their report. Can you help me?

phil



1

My name is Philip Johnson. I live at 638 14th Street, Manhattan Beach. I have lived on 14th Street for 43 years. My family and I have peacefully co-existed with the Church, and appreciate its place in the community. However, I am opposed to converting Deegan Place into a south bound one-way street.

Periodically, I bring my 5th wheel trailer from its off-street parking location and park it prior to going on a trip. Currently, I use Deegan Place to access 15th Street, and eventually Valley/Ardmore. Making Deegan Place one-way, south-bound would require me to use Church Street, and 13th Street, both very narrow roadways, to access Ardmore. Turning on to, and off of these narrow streets, is not easy. The chances of side-swiping a parked vehicle is increased. In fact, two cars can not pass each other on Church Street

The only purpose of designating Deegan Place a one-way street is to allow church-goers unfettered access between the church and the parking lot, without having to wait for the minor traffic that passes between 14th Street and 15th Street. This has nothing to do with automobile safety. A crossing guard, provided by the church, can accomplish the same purpose.

Deegan Place has effectively been converted to a private parking lot for use by the church, already. The West side is reserved for disabled persons parking, and the East side has time limits. Both of these restrictions cover the entire block. Except Saturday and Sunday, there are very few pedestrian/vehicular conflicts

I reiterate my objection and hope you consider the neighbors of the church, as well as the parishioners.

Sincerely,

Philip Johnson

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## **Nhung Madrid**

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**From:** Bob Beverly <bob.beverly@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 3:54 PM  
**To:** Nhung Madrid  
**Subject:** DEEGAN PL direction change

I speak for many of use on 14th St who are opposed to making Deegan one-way. With a greenbelt right of way and Ardmore/Valley being one way streets, we are already burdened as far as access is concerned to our properties. If you recall, the east side of Deegan used to have a red curb to allow for better traffic flow. When the green curb was added, this created the traffic issues on big church days. I am a supporter of the church and admire Monsignor Berry but I believe this places a hardship on we the residents of 14th St.. I will not be able to attend the hearing since I have already purchased date night tickets for the Jack Johnson concert that night. Thank you Bob Beverly 528 14th St 90266

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## Nhung Madrid

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**From:** Jane Dion <janedion.jd@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 4:12 PM  
**To:** Nhung Madrid  
**Subject:** Proposed one-way street conversion on Deegan Place

Hello, can you please tell me if American Martyrs Church pays property taxes to the City for all of its facilities? The church, parking lot, school campus, and surrounding houses that have been converted into church buildings?

Thank you.

Jane Dion  
634 14th Street

**Nhung Madrid**

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**From:** BobbyIra <bobbyira@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 8:13 PM  
**To:** Nhung Madrid  
**Subject:** Opposition to one-way traffic for Deegan St.

As a resident/home owner on 14th St., I strongly oppose turning Deegan St. into a one-way street going south. I am also concerned that the notification period is so short. This is not an emergency. I am taking this means to express my opposition as I am unable to attend the meeting on the 28th.

1. At certain times of the day, it is impossible to get out onto Valley/Ardmore, so Deegan north is the only feasible way to get to 15th street from 12th, 13th and 14th St. If you want to go toward the beach (to the post office, library, Von's), you would have to go to several blocks out of your way to Manhattan Beach Blvd., which is always crowded, making it dangerous to enter.

1. Traffic will increase on 15th St. as cars going up 14th and other streets will not be able to enter the church parking lot.

1. Cars on Church going north would have to turn onto 14th St. when they reach Deegan, thus increasing traffic on 14th, a street where there many young children at play.

1. There are no houses or businesses on Deegan, only the church, so there are pedestrians only on Sunday. The traffic is almost entirely from those attending the church, again only on Sunday or for an occasional funeral. Otherwise there is very little traffic on Deegan.

1. During traffic hours, to get to the freeway on Valley/Ardmore/Marine, you need to take Deegan. Getting onto Valley/Ardmore from 12th, 13th or 14th is possible only if a kind driver lets you in.

**SUGGESTION:**

Since the problem, if there is one, occurs only on Sundays, perhaps the church could hire a crossing guard to see that pedestrians cross safely. Why penalize all the residents of the area seven days a week for a problem that occurs only one day a week.

**IRA RUBIN AND FAMILY  
628 14TH STREET  
MANHATTAN BEACH**

**310-545-5021**

**Nhung Madrid**

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**From:** bob.beverly@ymail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2014 8:20 PM  
**To:** List - PPIC  
**Subject:** Parking and Public Improvements Commission

I speak for many of us on 14th St who are opposed to making Deegan one-way. With a greenbelt right of way and Ardmore/Valley being one way streets, we are already burdened as far as access is concerned to our properties. If you recall, the east side of Deegan used to have a red curb to allow for better traffic flow. When the green curb was added, this created the traffic issues on big church days. I am a supporter of the church and admire Monsignor Berry but I believe this places a hardship on we the residents of 14th St.. I will not be able to attend the hearing since I have already purchased date night tickets for the Jack Johnson concert that night. Thank you Bob Beverly 528 14th St 90266

Sent from Windows Mail

February 25, 2014

Erik Zandvliet, T.E.  
City Traffic Engineer  
City of Manhattan Beach  
1400 Highland Ave.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

**Hand Delivered**

Dear Mr. Zandvliet,

I live at 645 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan Beach. Please know that I support the request of American Martyrs Church to close Deegan Place temporarily on weekends and Christmas for the safety of pedestrians crossing Deegan Place to attend Mass.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Weber". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jeanne Weber