

Mayor Soglin and Ms. Bachman:

My name is Mike Saunders. I and my family (wife Laura, Daughter Sydney 14, Son Mason 10, and two dogs) reside at 4202 Jerome Street. We have lived there since 1999.

In our time on Jerome Street, we have been able to experience many of the good things and bad things one experiences when living in close proximity to a High School.

The good things: years of nice kids and parents (the majority of MG families) and their athletic events, music events, seeing them graduate, waving hello to young adults as they walk and drive through our neighborhood. We have also had nice young people sell us booster cards supporting MG athletics and we have supported their endeavors. We also have attended plays and music performances put on by talented students.

The bad things: years of students and parents driving through our neighborhood way too fast, endangering adults, children, and pets. This necessitated the gate that is in our neighborhood as we speak. The entitlement attitude of a minority of students, their parents, and the city of Monona and the Monona Grove School District have made it so the gate is necessary for our neighborhood and the elementary school down the street to have a measure of safety from excess traffic and speedy traffic.

I understand that the impending construction will be inconvenient and burdensome for all. My question to the powers-that-be is: is this going to be inconvenient or insurmountable when Monona Drive is under construction? With that said, we can't people from Cottage Grove leave earlier, or open up some streets for parking in Monona and divert traffic there, send traffic down 51 and Phlaum Road and then to Monona Drive. It always seems that Monona wants us "to be a good neighbor", yet continues to do NOTHING to help themselves and then cries "bad neighbor" when our understandably vexed neighborhood says "no" to their requests based on their past behavior.

I implore you to look at more solutions other than just opening our gates for those phases of the construction time. I find it ironic that Madison made decisions without talking to the people affected, and I am to be honest, **not happy** about it.

You can talk extra patrols and cooperation all you want. It's BS! I know, I've lived it and seen it not work. I would be willing to look at other ideas, but opening our gates for the entire time (maybe for a couple of more hours am and pm?) is BAD, BAD, BAD and will not tolerated by this neighborhood. Once again, what is Monona willing to do?

SAFETY! Don't forget us and Frank Allis! Thanks, Mike Saunders. 220-6360