TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

DATE: JUNE 3, 2002

SUBJECT: RESOLUTIONS APPROVING INSTALLATION OF NEW MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK ON CHANNING AVENUE BETWEEN BRYANT AND WAVERLEY STREETS AND REMOVING AN EXISTING MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK ON HOMER AVENUE BETWEEN BRYANT AND WAVERLEY STREETS

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends approval of:

(a) the attached resolution (Attachment A) authorizing installation of a mid-block crosswalk on Channing Avenue between Bryant and Waverley Streets, with bulb-outs on both sides of Channing; and

(b) the attached resolution (Attachment B) authorizing removal of the existing mid-block crosswalk on Homer Avenue between Bryant and Waverley Streets.

BACKGROUND
The developer of the South of Forest Avenue (SOFA) area, Summerhill Homes, included a crosswalk and curb bulb-outs on Channing Avenue midway between Bryant and Waverley Streets in its development plans. The crosswalk is intended to provide a pedestrian-friendly connection between Scott Park and the new City park on Block “B”, via the mews that will separate the single and multiple family housing developments. It should also provide wider-area connectivity between the neighborhood south of Channing and the downtown neighborhood.

DISCUSSION
In July 2000, Council adopted guidelines for approval of new mid-block crosswalks (stated in quotation marks below). The proposed Channing mid-block crosswalk meets the intent of these guidelines, as follows:
1. **Traffic Volume Guideline.** “Traffic volumes for a two-lane roadway should not be greater than 12,000 vpd…” The volume on Channing is approximately 5000 vehicles per day.

2. **Speed Guideline.** “Uncontrolled mid-block crosswalks should not be considered where the 85th percentile speed is greater than 40 mph.” The prevailing speed on Channing is 31-32 mph.

3. **Pedestrian Volume Guideline.** “The pedestrian volume should have a minimum of 40 pedestrians per hour or 25 pedestrians per hour for each of 4 hours.” Because development is not completed yet, future pedestrian volumes are unknown. However, staff believes that this guideline would probably not be met in the future, even with the new park.

4. **Location Guideline.** “Mid-block crosswalks should be located, as much as possible, midway between stop or signal controlled intersections…” This guideline is met because the location is midway between a stop- and a signal-controlled intersection.

5. **Treatment Guideline.** “Special treatments include one or more of the following: raised crosswalks, bulb-outs, median refuges, and actuated warning systems. Each of these treatments shall be considered for possible implementation at any qualifying mid-block crosswalk location.” Bulb-outs are proposed to shorten the pedestrian crossing distance and increase visibility between waiting pedestrians and approaching vehicles.

Staff concludes that these guidelines are sufficiently satisfied for this proposed installation. It is not required that all five guidelines be met. California Vehicle Code section 21106 allows local authorities, by ordinance or resolution, to establish crosswalks between intersections. A resolution authorizing installation of this crosswalk is included as Attachment A.

The existing mid-block crosswalk on Homer Avenue is no longer needed to serve the former PAMF site. A resolution authorizing removal of this crosswalk is included as Attachment B. A mid-block crosswalk is also contemplated in the future on Homer between Bryant and Waverley, when the City develops the new park. This crosswalk would connect the new park with the existing City-owned Williams house. It would be located a few yards east of an existing mid-block crosswalk that used to connect Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF) buildings on both sides of Homer.
RESOURCE IMPACT
The Channing Avenue crosswalk and bulb-outs and associated signs will be installed by Summerhill Homes, and no City funds will be required. The Homer Avenue crosswalk and associated signs will be removed by Public Works Operations as a routine maintenance item.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS
A mid-block crosswalk on Channing midway between Bryant and Waverley is included and implied in two policies of the Council-adopted South of Forest Area Coordinated Area Plan Phase I:

   Community Facilities Policy CF-2: Insure that the new park with private development open space (mews) provide a public connection to Scott Park and the surrounding neighborhoods.

   Transportation Policy T-17: With new development, require . . . sidewalk widening, and other improvements to improve pedestrian experience throughout SOFA area.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
Installation of crosswalks and related signs is considered to be a minor operational improvement and is therefore categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) section 15301. Therefore, no environmental assessment is required.

ATTACHMENTS
A. Resolution Establishing a Crosswalk on Channing Avenue
B. Resolution Removing a Crosswalk on Homer Avenue

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