

ORDINANCE NO. 2008 - 12

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REDUCE THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT ON SW 178th AVENUE (MATHER BOULEVARD) TO THIRTY FIVE (35) MILES PER HOUR; AUTHORIZING THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO REPLACE THE APPLICABLE POSTED SPEED LIMIT SIGNS WITH THE REDUCED SPEED; DIRECTING THE TOWN CLERK TO PROVIDE THE TOWN'S LAW ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT WITH A CERTIFIED COPY OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE TOWN'S CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature formed the Town of Southwest Ranches (the "Town") pursuant to Chapter 2000-475, of the Laws of the State of Florida, on June 6, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Section 316.189, Florida Statutes, allows a municipality to establish speed limits, within certain parameters, after an investigation determines that such speed limit is reasonable and in conformity with the criteria promulgated by the Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Town, concerned with the average speed found to be traveling across SW 178th Avenue, retained R.J. Behar & Company to determine whether a speed limit reduction on this local residential roadway would be reasonable and appropriate; and

WHEREAS, after a comprehensive study, the synopsis of which has been attached hereto and is incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit "A", R.J. Behar & Company concluded that the Town could reduce the speed limit on SW 178th Avenue to thirty five (35) miles per hour and that such reduction is reasonable and in conformity with the criteria promulgated by the Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, R.J. Behar & Company's analysis included, but was not limited to, a review of the Town's rural roadway network, the equestrian and pedestrian use of the local roadways, the roadway geometry, the roadway widths, the clear recovery zones, the minimum stopping distance, the minimum corner intersection site distance, exclusive turn lanes, the residential travel patterns, and two years worth of data delineating traffic counts and average speeds; and

WHEREAS, the Town believes that this speed limit reduction is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

Section 1: That the foregoing "WHEREAS" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Ordinance.

Section 2: The Code of Ordinances of the Town of Southwest Ranches is hereby amended to read that the posted speed limit for SW 178th Avenue (Mather Boulevard) roadways shall be thirty five (35) miles per hour.

Section 3: That the Town Administrator is authorized to replace the applicable posted speed limit signs with the reduced speed of thirty five (35) miles per hour.

Section 4: That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to provide the Town's Law Enforcement Department with a certified copy of this Ordinance.

Section 5: Inclusion in the Code. This Ordinance shall be codified and included as part of the Town's Code of Ordinances.

Section 6: Conflicts. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, Resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith, and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 7: Severability. If any word, phrase, clause, sentence or section of this Ordinance is, for any reason, held unconstitutional or invalid, the invalidity thereof shall not affect the validity of any remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 8: Effective Date. In accordance with Section 316.189 (3), Florida Statutes, this Ordinance shall become effective upon the Town's posting of the revised speed limit.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

PASSED ON FIRST READING this 5th day of June, 2008 on a motion made by Council Member Don Maines and seconded by Council Member Aster Knight.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 24th day of July 2008, on a motion by Vice Mayor Jeff Nelson and seconded by Council Member Don Maines.

Fink	<u>Y</u>	Ayes	<u>5</u>
Nelson	<u>Y</u>	Nays	<u>0</u>
Breitkreuz	<u>Y</u>	Absent	<u>0</u>
Knight	<u>Y</u>	Abstaining	<u>0</u>
Maines	<u>Y</u>		



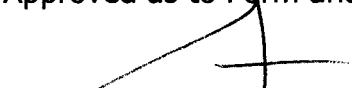
Mecca Fink, Mayor

ATTEST:



Susan A. Owens, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



Gary A. Poliakoff, J.D., Town Attorney
FTL_DB: 1117632_1



R.J. Behar & Company, Inc.
Engineers - Planners

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TEL: 954-680-7771
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Memo

To: Christopher Russo, Town Administrator
From: Javier Rodriguez, P.E.
C.C.: Malini Siew-Narine
Date: March 12, 2008
Re: **Town of Southwest Ranches SW 178TH AVENUE POSTED SPEED**



Pursuant to your request for an evaluation of the possibility of reducing the posted speed for SW 178th Avenue to 35 MPH, we offer the following:

Florida Statute 316.189 states that "a municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable", it further states that **"A municipality may set speed zones altering the speed limit, both as to maximum, not to exceed 60 miles per hour, and minimum, after investigation determines such a change is reasonable and in conformity to criteria promulgated by the Department of Transportation, except that no changes shall be made on state highways or connecting links or extensions thereof, which shall be changed only by the Department of Transportation" ..**

The Florida Greenbook, Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways, states that "The primary function of residential streets is to provide access to homes that front those streets". It further states that the primary consideration for the design of these streets is safety for residents, motorists, and pedestrians.

SW 178th Avenue is not a state highway and is not a connecting link or extension thereof. SW 178th Avenue provides access to and from the Rolling Oaks neighborhood, a single family residential area. It provides north-south travel through the neighborhood with connection to Griffin Road which is an arterial street. SW 178th does not provide connectivity between Griffin Road and the arterial street immediately south of Griffin Road, Sheridan Street.

School and pedestrian traffic is common throughout the day on SW 178th Avenue. In addition, the street has no sidewalks, and pedestrians travel and children play in the roadside swales. Also, SW 178th Avenue attracts significant equestrian use within its roadside swales, due to its rural character.

The Town has received many requests from residents of the Rolling Oaks community for a reduction of the posted speed from 45 mph to 35 mph on SW 178th Avenue. The Town is currently in the process of a town wide lowering of posted speed limits to 25 mph.

The following roadway elements were evaluated relative to this investigation:

Roadway Widths – The width of SW 178th Avenue varies from 20 feet to 22 feet. Base on a traffic study conducted on April 18, 2006, the average daily traffic is 5,503 motorists. Based on Table 3-8 of the Florida Greenbook, Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways, the current posted speed of 45 mph requires that roadway widths be designed to 24 feet for ADT counts above 1,600 motorists. SW 178th Avenue is designed as a local/collector, having an average pavement width of 22 feet. The minimum lane width for such roadways is 10 feet (Table 3-7), and roadways with 35 mph posted speed limits are required to have 24 feet design pavement widths for an ADT over 1,600 motorists (Table 3-8). In lieu of the posted speed of 45 mph, a reduction to 35 mph will have a calming effect and increase safety for residents, pedestrians, and motorists along SW 178th Avenue.

Clear (Recovery) Zones – There is a reduction in the Clear Zone requirement for a 35 mph posted speed. Clear Zones currently vary in width from 39 feet to 40 feet. For a posted speed of 45 mph, the Florida Greenbook, Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways, requires an 18 foot clear zone for an ADT count over 1,500 motorists (Table 3-12). The Clear Zone requirement for a posted speed of 35 mph is 10 feet on local/collector roadways. The proposed reduced speed will result in extra Clear Zone width and safety for equestrian users. Not only does a speed reduction from 45 mph to 35 mph enhance safety, it also has no adverse effect on the Clear Recovery Zone requirement of the Florida Greenbook.

Exclusive Turn Lanes – The posted speed of 45 mph combined with the fact that SW 178th Avenue is a two-lane undivided local/collector roadway, presents an issue of safety. There are currently no exclusive right or left turn lanes on SW 178th Avenue. A speed reduction to 35 mph would enhance the safety of motorists, pedestrians, and residents, to better suit the design of the roadway.

The rural character of the other local streets in the area and the Rolling Oaks community promotes a rural lifestyle. This invites children to play and for equestrian activities to take place within the roadways. A lower speed limit will enhance the quality of life and the safety of the residents along SW 178th Avenue.

Based on our investigation, we assess that reducing the posted speed limit to 35 mph from 45 mph, on SW 178th Avenue, is appropriate.