

Date: October 3, 2012
To: Mayor, Councilmembers, Staff & Public
From: Councilmember Ryan O'Neil
Subject: Adoption / Discussion on Resolution 12-66, a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax authorizing the temporary closure of Dominga Avenue in the evening on Halloween to provide a safe environment for children and families free of motorized vehicle traffic.

RECOMMENDATION:

In order to provide a safe-zone from motorized traffic on an evening where visibility is typically poor, and hundreds of young people will be out in the street it is my opinion that we close Dominga from motorized vehicles in the evening immediately after the parade until 10pm.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION

On Halloween evening last year I participated in a wonderful event with my family on Dominga Avenue where hundreds and hundreds of children, parents & pets dressed for the evening engaged in a closed block Halloween festival. The event provided a sanctuary for children and peace of mind for parents that there were no threats to their children from motorized vehicle traffic. This event also served to bring children and parents together to engage in a community bonding event. Almost all the homes were ornately decorated, there were open to the public "haunted houses" and amazing Halloween displays were abundant.

During my door to door campaigning last year I spoke with many of the local Dominga residents regarding the pros and cons of the event from 2011. Overwhelmingly they loved the event, however many shared that there was a huge financial burden on them in regard to costs of treats for the massive volume of children coming to their doors.

As a hillside resident that gets virtually NO knocks on my door on Halloween I wanted to open a discussion to start a fund or "treat-drop" so participants of the event that DO NOT live on Dominga can help lessen the burden on the residents that are financially impacted due to their location.

Ideas to consider:

- 1) Does this event have the support of the Dominga Community?
- 2) Are there any/many opposed to the location for the Halloween gathering?
- 3) What are the financial costs for the Town? (police, garbage, bathrooms?)
- 4) Does the Police Chief like the idea of a centralized area to police rather than a sprawl?
- 5) What hours would be acceptable?
- 6) Does this street closure cause any public safety issue for emergency vehicle needs?

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT**

Date: October 3, 2012

To: Mayor and Members of the Town Council

From: Mayor Hartwell-Herrero and Councilmember O'Neil
By Interim Town Manager Anderson

Subject: Adoption of Resolution No.12-66, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax authorizing the temporary closure of Bolinas Road and Dominga Avenue for the Halloween parade – Hartwell-Herrero/O'Neil

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the requested road closures not be approved.

BACKGROUND

The Halloween Parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce is very popular and the sidewalks get very crowded with little goblins. Mayor Hartwell-Herrero has requested that Bolinas Road be closed during the parade to allow for the safe passage of the costumed children and their parents. Staff has discussed this possibility and decided that it would cause a major traffic jam due to the commute hour and the distraction of the parade. Also, the two extra officers necessary to keep the children safe and direct traffic would cost approximately \$800 and there would also be a cost for the Public Works Department. Commute traffic backs up significantly on a normal weeknight at the time of the parade. Unlike the Streets for People event, which was on a Sunday, this closure at commute time would severely slow down traffic. The Police Department has been especially short-staffed recently and scheduling the overtime necessary could be difficult.

Councilmember O'Neil has requested that the safety of children trick-or-treating on Dominga Avenue also be addressed, perhaps with a closure of that road. Last Halloween, a resident of Dominga paid for a street closure as part of a block party application made through and approved by the Police Department. This was the first time that Dominga had been closed on Halloween. The Dominga residents are overwhelmed by children who trick-or-treat on their street after the parade. Councilmember O'Neil would also like to have Council discuss how other residents could share the burden of the cost of the treats for the residents of Dominga Ave.

FISCAL IMPACT

More than \$800

ATTACHMENT:

Draft Resolution 12-66

RESOLUTION 12-66

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX
AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CERTAIN STREETS AND PORTIONS
THEREOF (BOLINAS ROAD AND DOMINGA AVENUE), TO ALLOW FOR A
HALLOWEEN PARADE ON OCTOBER 31, 2012**

WHEREAS, the Annual Chamber sponsored Halloween Parade will be held on
Wednesday, October 31st at 5:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, temporary closure of certain streets is necessary in order to safely
facilitate the parade, and for traffic control during the parade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of
Fairfax to temporarily close the following streets or portions thereof:

Bolinas Road from Broadway to Elsie Lane from approximately 4:30 p.m. to 6:00
p.m. and Dominga Avenue from Napa to Sherman from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.,
on October 31, 2012.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the
Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 3rd day of October, 2012 by the following
vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

PAM HARTWELL-HERRERO, MAYOR

Attest:

Town Clerk