



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
*City of Albuquerque*

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Inspector General

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**DATE:** December 3, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Improper procedures for installing barricade

**FILE NO:** 21-0060-C

**INVESTIGATOR:** Melissa R. Santistevan 

**STATUS:** Closed

**Informative Case Synopsis**

On October 20, 2021, the Office of Inspector General "OIG" received information alleging an improper installation of a barricade at San Rafael and Carlisle and Santa Clara and Columbia. This project was complete in October 2020. The complainant stated that the Neighborhood Association, nor the residents had been informed regarding the installation of traffic devices along the route and that a public meeting had not been held. Upon receiving this complaint, the OIG determined that the allegations did rise to the level of potential fraud, waste or abuse, initiated a case and began a fact-finding investigation.

Pursuant to City Ordinance 2-17-2, the Inspector General's goals are to: (1) Conduct investigations in an efficient, impartial, equitable and objective manner; (2) Prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in city activities including all city contracts and partnerships; (3) Deter criminal activity through independence in fact and appearance, investigation and interdiction; and (4) Propose ways to increase the city's legal, fiscal and ethical accountability to insure that tax payers' dollars are spent in a manner consistent with the highest standards of local governments.

While conducting our fact-finding investigation, the OIG Investigator obtained and reviewed the project packet for the barricade installation at San Rafael and Carlisle along with additional traffic slowing devices along the corridor. The OIG reviewed the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) from February 2015 and the updated version dated October 2020 to determine the procedures necessary for installation of traffic devices related to the Traffic Calming Policy.

Through our fact-finding investigation, the Office of Inspector General obtained copies of the application, a list of addresses along San Rafael, and the petition forms signed by residents of San Rafael. The OIG also obtained a copy of a letter dated August 2020 from the City of Albuquerque to the residents of San Rafael Avenue and Public Meeting flyers informing residents of meetings

on February 11, 2019 and again on June 26, 2019 to be held at Loma Linda Community Center. Meeting minutes from February 11, 2019 were also reviewed. The OIG was provided a traffic study on San Rafael Avenue dated August 2018 and revised in October 2018 which indicated that two of the NTMP criteria were met. A presentation created in June 2019 provided the pros and cons of suggested traffic slowing devices that were being considered for San Rafael Avenue. The OIG found that this project had been initiated by the community via written correspondence. In 2018, the community engaged support from City Councilor Davis who, along with the City's Traffic Engineer began the process of studying the San Rafael corridor and planning traffic calming solutions. Councilor Davis utilized discretionary council funds for this project, which was permissible.

The fact-finding investigation revealed that the process of project determination, approval, planning and implementation followed the NTMP Traffic Calming Policy.

Based on the information obtained during our fact-finding investigation, the allegations in the complaint are unsubstantiated. The fact-finding investigation has been closed.