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55 Westgate Drive

Based on what we learned during the first public meeting and a subsequent neighborhood meeting with a council representative, the City wants to connect Westgate Drive and Champion Court for 2 reasons:

1. So that city trucks won't have to back up to turn around
We were told that the city doesn't want to send the new trucks on Westgate Drive because the City is fairly confident its going to be very difficult to turn them around and that the vehicles have large blind spots. I took video of what I'm told is the new recycling truck only needing to back up once to turn around. If more than half of the paved circle is utilized, the trucks are able to turn around fairly easily. Back up cameras can help with blind spots.

2. For safety reasons
We were told that if a house on the North side of the street has a fire, the fire truck would have to go to the end of the street to turn around before being able to work on putting out the fire. I checked with some firemen who assured me that they would be able to take care of any house on either side of the street without having to turn around in the circle first.

It was suggested that we try no parking signs for a year or two and "see what the data says" - the measure of success would be if staff were happy and emergency services can reach the houses quickly (a 6 minute run time goal was mentioned).

Given the above, it seems to me that the reason for connecting Westgate and Champion is just so that city drivers don't have to back up to turn around, even though they also have to back up to turn around in larger cul-de-sacs with more obstacles. Any safety issues are the same that affect every other street in the city.

I have not heard of any residents of either street that want the connection, and even if it were to cost only a few thousand dollars, I believe that money would be better spent elsewhere rather than trading the happiness of the residents for the convenience of 2 or 3 city services trucks a week.