

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 6:45 p.m.
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

To Order:

Chairman Gregg Westover called the Safety Committee meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Attendance:

Members present: Councilman Bruce Abens, Councilman Dennis Boose and Chairman Gregg Westover.

Also present: Mayor David Gillock, Safety-Service Director Jeff Armbruster, Law Director Brian Moriarty, Councilman Bob Chapek, Police Chief Mike Freeman, Councilwoman Michelle Hung, President Kevin Corcoran and Assistant Clerk of Council Tara Peet.

Minutes:

Chairman Westover asked for any corrections to the August 15, 2016 meeting minutes. No discussion was offered. The minutes stand approved as submitted.

Discussion Avalon traffic:

Chairman Westover thanked Chief Freeman for keeping the City safe and further stated he wanted to discuss the traffic situation in Avalon first. He noted that several families have moved from the development due to safety concerns. Chairman Westover stated Avalon is a cut through to Case Road and the speed limit is 25 mph. Chairman Westover stated he would like to hear positive suggestions to address the problem.

Chief Freeman presented crash statistics for January 2018, the year 2017 and the year 2016 (attached). He explained that he puts his resources where the greatest crashes are. Chief Freeman stated .003% of traffic crashes occurred on Avalon Drive in the past two years. He also stated his department pulled in over \$700,000 in traffic related grants. Chief Freeman stated active school zones are worked first, then high traffic and complaint areas. Chief Freeman agreed that Avalon is a high complaint area. There are speeders on Avalon Drive, but there are also speeders and DUI offenders in other areas. Chief Freeman stated policing is only where that officer is at that point in time. He anticipated that the high crash rate on U.S. 20 will decrease with the widening of the roadway. He also stated he felt the same with Lorain Road once improvements are completed.

Chief Freeman noted that his department is made up of thirty-eight officers and twenty-eight guys on the roadway.

Chairman Westover asked the Mayor to relay what the two of them discussed regarding signage.

Mayor Gillock stated he already ordered the sign. He noted that the stealth stat was displayed on two different occasions. The results told the City that fifteen percent of traffic through that area was speeders. The City hired an independent firm to analyze and study the traffic in that area. The City placed an order for a digital sign for about \$3,500 that indicates the speed of the driver. It will track the data in that area, for a third time. The average speed from the study was 25.7 mph which was eighty-five percent of traffic in that area.

Chairman Westover thanked the Mayor for keeping an open mind.

Safety-Service Director Armbruster stated that only one set of the signage has been ordered. It will move from subdivision to subdivision. It will move into Hampton as it is developed to Case Road. He further noted the City does not have unlimited funding to purchase signage.

Mayor Gillock stated the signs will be moved around wherever the Chief thinks they would need placed.

Chairman Westover asked if anyone in the audience cared to address the Committee.

Jim Smolik, 38610 Avalon Drive: stated he realized Avalon is a cut through street. He stated the City of Lakewood has no parking signs alternating the street eliminating the straight through approach and asked the City consider something like that.

Councilman DeVries asked if the City has considered speed bumps in certain areas.

Mayor Gillock stated they are called calming devices or speed tables. He noted the study recommended no calming devices in that area

Discussion Sugar Ridge Road truck traffic:

Councilman Abens stated that the Police Department has been patrolling more in the area. He noted he could understand why the residents don't want the truck traffic. Councilman Abens felt that some of the truck traffic cut through to avoid a weigh-in or else their GPS navigates them to Sugar Ridge.

Councilman DeVries asked if the City had reminded the local businesses of the rules for use on that road and the established fines.

Chief Freeman stated most of the offenders are not local businesses. They are just using the road as a cut through. The biggest issue is with dump trucks, concrete trucks and semi-trucks. He also noted the businesses on the east end of Sugar Ridge Road have professional drivers and the Chief didn't think they were a problem.

Councilman Abens stated he heard from some businesses not allowing truck traffic to be open to Sugar Ridge Road is costing the businesses money.

Chief Freeman noted the City is currently reviewing the Ordinances to update them on the ton maximum and minimum regarding a full size pickup truck.

Chief Freeman noted that with budget constraints and manpower, traffic detail is not all his department does for the City. He noted that tier 1 offenses are going through the roof. There are so many issues and needs demanded on the City and as the City grows, needs grow. Chief Freeman noted this was not just exclusive to North Ridgeville. He added the department addresses rapes, homicides and abuse and added traffic could not be viewed in a pin prick.

Chairman Westover asked if anyone in the audience carried to speak on the matter.

Albert Krage, 37903 Sugar Ridge Road: presented a log he kept of truck traffic on Sugar Ridge Road. He said he spoke to some of the truckers and they informed him their GPS took them down Sugar Ridge. He explained what trucks were coming down the road and where they were coming from. Mr. Krage stated there isn't a "no trucks" sign off of Race Road.

Councilman DeVries advised Mr. Krage not to chase truck traffic as it was not safe.

Mike Babet, 38601 Sugar Ridge Road: stated he is concerned about Center Ridge Road construction and the amount of trucks that will come down Sugar Ridge during the project. He suggested writing professional letters to the truckers and businesses so they know the law. He stated members of REZCOM would assist.

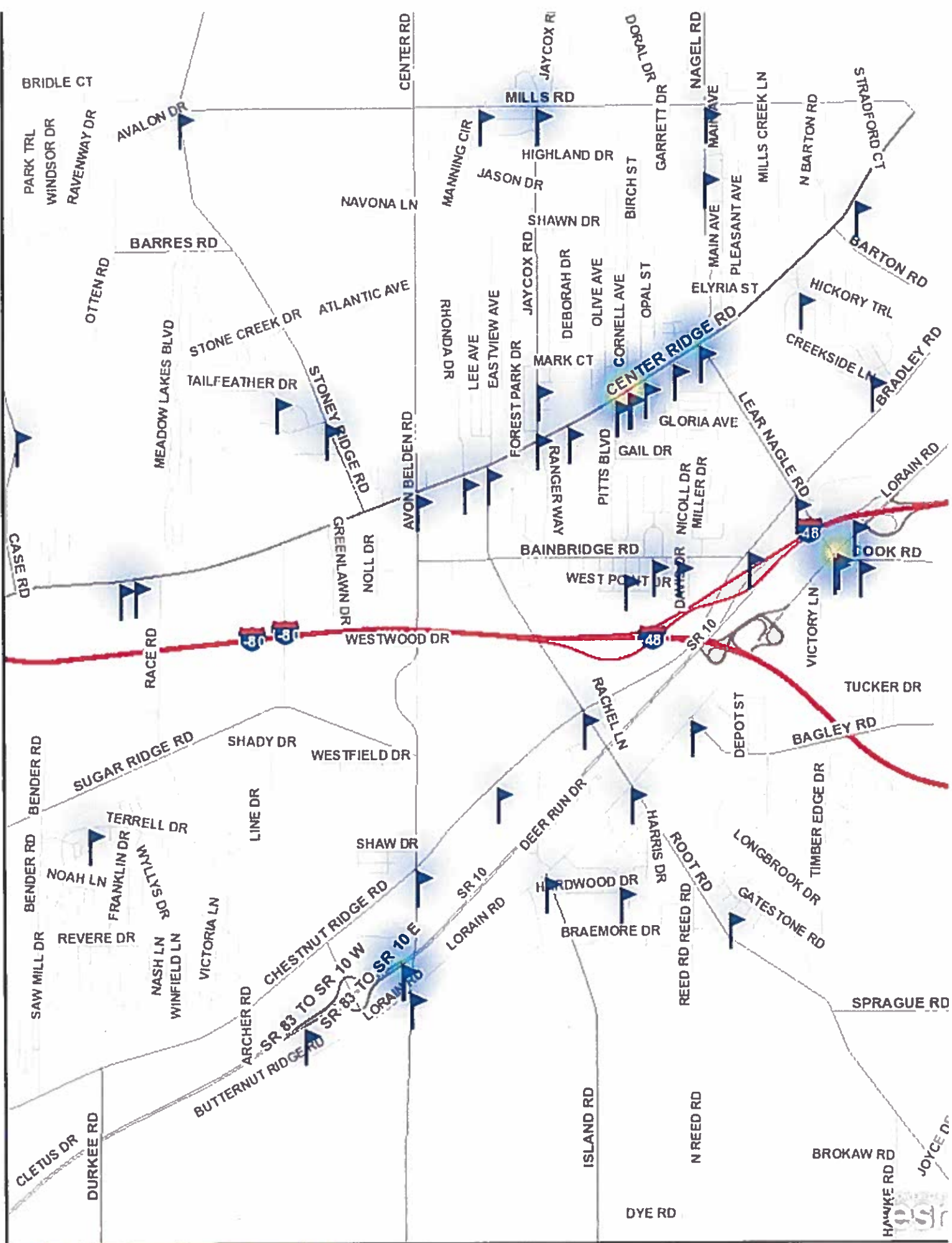
Chairman Westover stated he will have another meeting in the future. He further stated anyone else that would like to speak on the matter can stay for the lobby session of the Council meeting.

Adjourn:

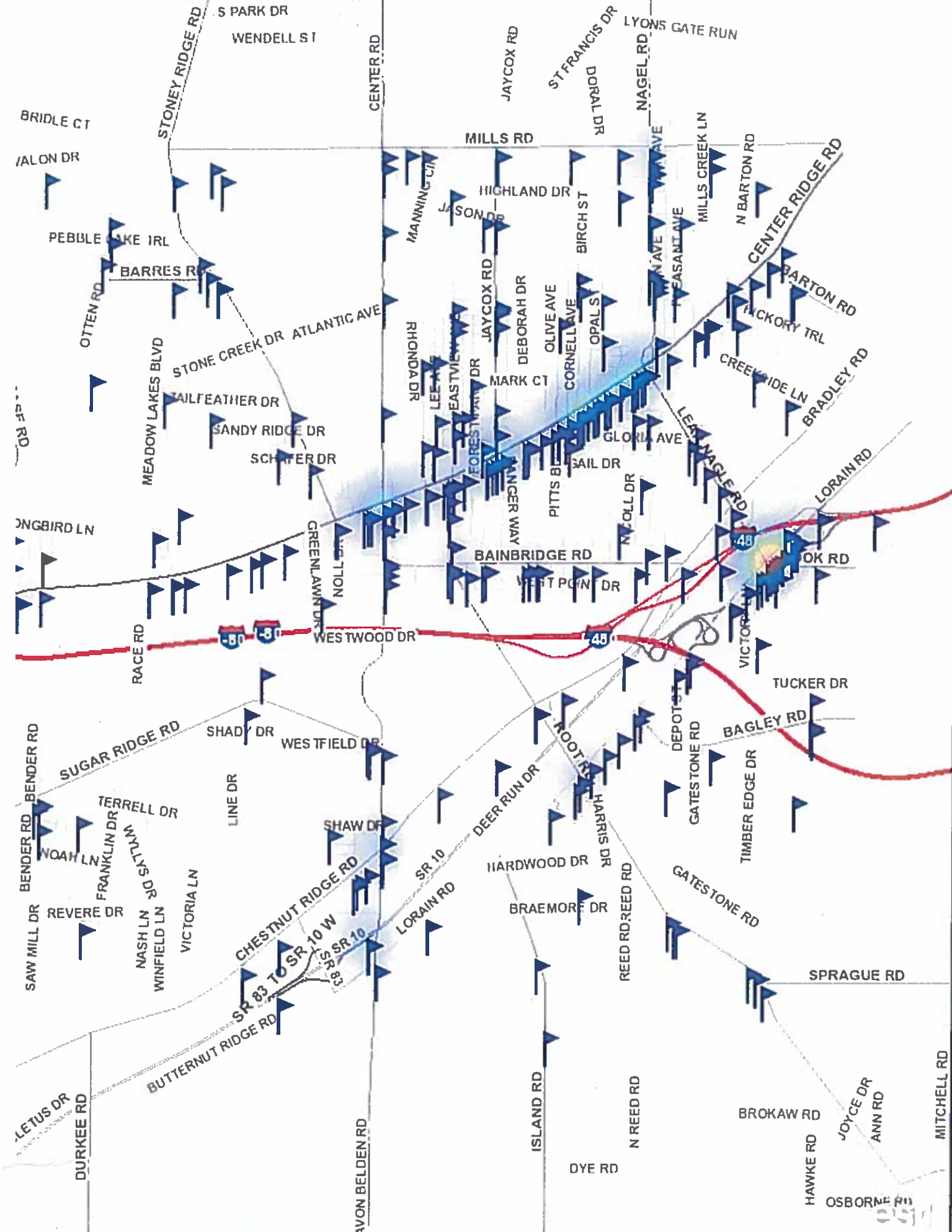
The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

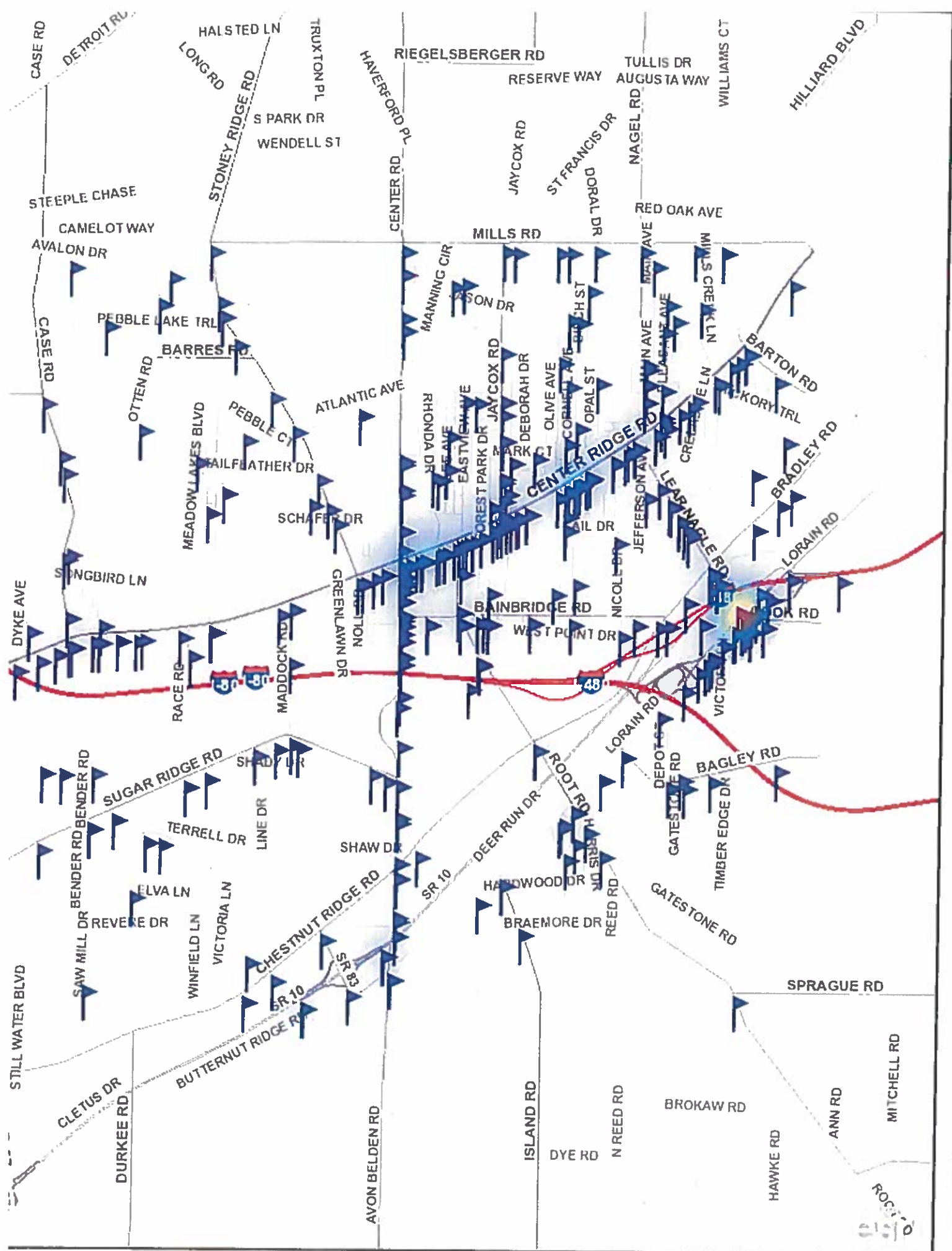
Tara L. Peet, MMC
Assistant Clerk of Council



January 2018



1/1/2017 → 12/31/2017



1/1/2010 → 12/31/2010