

Put in minutes  
of meeting

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203-461-9993

July 30, 2013

Mr. Joseph J. Capalbo, II  
Director of Legal Affairs  
City of Stamford  
1100 Summer Street  
Stamford, CT 06905-5534

RE: OPPOSITION TO THE CONVERSION OF VINEYARD LANE TO A DEAD-END and ANY FURTHER STUDY

Dear Attorney Capalbo,

I want to express my stern opposition to the dead-ending of Vineyard Lane based on the negative consequences that would result in, and based on there being no factual justification supporting this conversion of a PUBLIC street, which non-residential vehicles can utilize.

If Vineyard Lane were to be dead-ended, allowing no further traffic to enter from Long Ridge Road permanently, this would immediately have 4 negative consequences to the surrounding neighbors and neighborhood:

- 1) Lower End Wire Mill would inherit ALL of the "OLD TRAFFIC" that used to utilize Vineyard Lane as a public street, where Vineyard "helped" with our traffic flow.
- 2) Lower End Wire Mill would inherit 100% of "NEW TRAFFIC"; This new traffic is the residential traffic of the homeowners living on Vineyard / Hunting Lane, (about 28 homes) that at one time could turn into Vineyard from Long Ridge, (avoiding lower end Wire Mill entirely) but now will permanently have to utilize lower Wire Mill in order to exit their streets or return back to their homes, multiple times a day, putting more vehicles on our strip of lower Wire Mill.
- 3) Traffic would build up on Long Ridge, by the length of those vehicles that use to utilize public street Vineyard Lane, and by having to wait at the light at Wire Mill before advancing. This would result in **LONGER TIME** for ALL residents to get home or to their scheduled / destinations that live on:
  - \*Wire Mill      \*Maltbie                      \*Barnes Road
  - \*Cedar Tree    \*Mid-River Run                \*Cedar Heights
  - \*Vineyard       \*Loughran                      \*Hunting Lane
  - \*Long Ridge    \*local businesses (i.e., The Dojo, Allegro Pianos—timed appts)

This delay would affect residents travelling on Long Ridge and living on streets north of the Merritt Parkway.

- 4) Loughran Avenue, 2 streets away from Vineyard, *may* become the "new" cut-thru street. This would only be for Maltbie and Mid-River residents who will no longer want to wait in the traffic on Long Ridge Road to get to Maltbie to make the right; they will turn right onto Loughran to get home quicker.

Loughran Avenue, may initially experience "trial and error" traffic, as other travelers on Long Ridge Road *may* attempt to seek another "cut-thru", only to realize they will end up on Long Ridge Road again.

So, if this were to happen, we have shifted Vineyard Lanes assumed problem, to a street down the road.

The Urban Engineers Report, (attached and unclear as to who paid for this report; City of Stamford, residents, builders/land surveyors?) performed a study on Vineyard Lane traffic from 9/10/12 to 9/20/12. This report documents the quantity of vehicles traveling on Vineyard Lane by each hour. However, the report does not document SPEED, which is the residents "concern". The report clearly states that the East Bound traffic (the 1 way traffic that is of the only concern to the Vineyard Residents) is not material and is not justification of closing a street permanently.

Furthermore, when analyzing the East Bound Volume numbers on the report, (where PUBLIC "traffic" is really only Monday through Friday, from 4pm to 7pm and only in 1 direction- EB), you have to extract from those hourly numbers, how many cars are in that total that are actual residential traffic, landscapers, housekeepers, babysitters, FedEx, builder vans, realtors showing open houses, etc. Once this is done, the survey quantity of cars, are further reduced.

Most homes on Vineyard Lane have 3 vehicles. There is one resident at 70 Vineyard Lane, who actually is opposed to the permanent closing, (and has signed our petition in opposition) because he works from home and admits he is "in and out" of Vineyard Lane, 5 to 6 times a day. It would be a great inconvenience for him, to have to get to his home, those 5 to 6 times a day, by taking Wire Mill Rd, or getting caught at the light. He estimates each time, could take up to 10 minutes; weather, snow etc.

Two of my three older boys, ages 11, 9, 3, go bike riding ON Vineyard/Hunting because there is NO traffic. They are friends with the boys of resident 70 Vineyard Lane, who is also opposed to the closing.

We have our children bike ride on this street, because this is safer than Wire Mill, where it is impossible for young children to ride their bikes. If we do not have a problem, where our kids are actually IN THE STREET, why do these residents have a problem?

On July 9<sup>th</sup> there was a public hearing for the public to express any concern. Residents of Wire Mill and Cedar Tree Lane were present to speak about the reasoning behind their opposition. The meeting was extremely poorly managed and frankly, out of control. The Vineyard/Hunting Lane residents did not allow for any of the "opposed" to speak entirely before they cut us off in a screaming, unprofessional manner.

Mani Poola has the audio from that evening that can be referenced. Facts that the OPPOSED residents were able to state were:

- \*a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, at 94 Wire Mill Rd, was hit by a vehicle while trying to cross to enter school bus
  - \*multiple dogs have been hit over the years
  - \*1 known dog was hit and killed
  - \*house cleaner of resident at Cedar Tree was hit exiting Cedar Tree
  - \*multiple speeding tickets have been given in just this last month
- All of the above, were all documented (police reports can be obtained) at speeds in excess of the limit.

The residents of Vineyard/Hunting Lane, in their attempt to have their street closed permanently, however, do not have any reported and documented instances where:

- \*a child was hit by a vehicle
- \*a dog was hit by a vehicle
- \*a dog was killed by a vehicle
- \*someone was hit by a speeding car , while exiting a driveway
- \*any speeding tickets issued on their streets

Street closures should not be granted based on people's fears or assumptions.

The speeding and traffic issue is on Wire Mill Road and not on Vineyard Lane.

Residents of lower Wire Mill had to request the City of Stamford, a few years ago, to allow mailboxes to be placed in front of their homes, so they would not have to jeopardize their lives crossing Wire Mill to get their mail.

The audio tape, from July 9<sup>th</sup> can be heard with the Vineyard/Hunting Lane residents expressing their "fear" of the external traffic and the speeds (however, no speeds have been documented or presented to the "opposed"). The residents spoke many times about how they can not "walk their dogs", in reference to the "external traffic" and presumed speed. Or can they not walk their dog due to their owned presumed fear? There are many dog owners on Vineyard / Hunting Lane. All of these residents have a minimum of at least a half acre, where their dog can be comfortably "walked".

1) Since when does a public street need to be closed off to allow for the walking of dogs ON that public street? Perhaps, the residents should ask for sidewalks instead of a street closure.

2) If the residents of Vineyard/Hunting, with over a ½ acre of land, "can not" walk their dogs, due to the "traffic/Speed", how are the residents of downtown Stamford, who live in apartment buildings, with almost "no land", that live on Tresser and Washington Blvd, able to walk their dogs?

Other residents can be heard stating that they have 15 month old children and are concerned with the traffic. I have had 3 kids that were all, at one time or another, 15 months old as well. As a matter of fact, this past April 2013, I paid \$1,300 to have custom driveway gates built as a preventative measure from having my 3 year old go in the street. I did not seek the city to make any exceptions for me. These Vineyard Lane residents, should be recommended to do the same, as a solution to their fear or concern, prior to any thought and expense imposed on the City of Stamford in permanently closing a street.

In addition, the Long Ridge Road traffic is the antithesis on weekends, confirmed by most of the lights from the Merritt to Bulls Head are yellow blinking. Why should Vineyard Lane be permanently "closed" on the weekend and why should Wire Mill/Cedar Tree have to accept Vineyard /Hunting Lane traffic coming in front of our homes, when they could have used the entrance to their street from Long Ridge?

The weekend yellow blinking lights further supports that if there is hardly any traffic on Long Ridge, then there would be hardly any traffic *from Long Ridge*, turning into Vineyard Lane, which again, even if they did, it is a Public street.

Vineyard Lane provides the ONLY detour available should Wire Mill face closure and the parkway can't be taken.

School buses would be late; employees; deliveries. Closing Vineyard means the ENTIRE neighborhood and surrounding streets would have no access

We are also risking lives not having EMS and Fire Department able to utilize Vineyard to "cut-thru" as an option to get to a potential heart attack or emergency call on streets off upper Wire Mill, as they would now have to fight the congested traffic at the Wire Mill /Long Ridge light.

Closing Vineyard Lane creates more of a safety issue. This will create INCREASED traffic on Long Ridge and Wire Mill.

Captain Susan Bretthauer performed a traffic study on Wire Mill at my request. The results below can be compared to the results from Urban Engineers for Vineyard Lane.

WIRE MILL East Bound Traffic Study

(5.5 day test ((2 days were weekend)) = 14,669 cars 1 way

Thursday, 6/20/13	2,581
Friday, 6/21/13	2,897
Saturday, 6/22/13	1,861
Sunday, 6/23/13	1,543
Monday, 6/24/13	2,219
Tuesday, 6/25/13	790 (up to 11:30am)

WIRE MILL West Bound Traffic Study

(7 day test ((2 days were weekend)) = 13,986 cars 1 way

Tues, 6/25/13 through Tues, 7/2/13 (up to 3 pm)

54% of these cars (7,552), were travelling on 1 way on Wire Mill over the 15mph posted limit.

In conclusion, attached you will find 60+ signatures from surrounding residents who are opposed to the permanent street closing of Vineyard Lane based on the above mentioned negative consequences this would have on them.

There are 2 residents, 1 from Vineyard Lane and 1 from Hunting Lane, that has signed this petition opposing. We are still awaiting an answer from Mani Poola as to the effect on of our obtaining these 60+ signatures in the process to permanently close Vineyard. Apparently, there were about 26 signatures that were needed to start the process to close the street.

Thank you,



Katina Papademetriou

cc: Ernest Orgera, Harry Day,  
Ralph Loglisci, Mani Poola,  
Demetrios Frazis, Sal Gabriele  
Robert "Gabe" DeLuca

# VINEYARD LANE EB TRAFFIC STUDY

Mon, 9/10/12	4:00	23	Mon, 9/17/12	4:00	14
	5:00	30		5:00	32
	6:00	21		6:00	15
	7:00	5		7:00	11
Tues, 9/11/12	4:00	18	Tues, 9/18/12	4:00	16
	5:00	16		5:00	16
	6:00	21		6:00	10
	7:00	8		7:00	10
Wed, 9/12/12	4:00	19	Wed, 9/19/12	4:00	14
	5:00	39		5:00	25
	6:00	22		6:00	11
	7:00	12		7:00	11
Thurs, 9/13/12	4:00	26			
	5:00	75			
	6:00	28	<b>8 weekday study done</b>		
	7:00	16			
Frid, 9/14/12	4:00	39	*19 Hunting 4 sale 479 days		
	5:00	60	* Vineyard Homes for sale		
	6:00	34	*Vineyard 2 new homes built		
	7:00	8			

## WIRE MILL EB TRAFFIC STUDY

*(5.5 day test (2 days were weekend) = 14,669 cars 1 way)*

THUR, 6/20/13	2,581
FRI, 6/21/13	2,897
SAT, 6/22/13	1,861
SUN, 6/23/13	1,543
MON, 6/24/13	2,219
TUES, 6/25/13	790 (up to 11:30)

## WIRE MILL WB TRAFFIC STUDY

*(7 day test (2 days were weekend) = 13,986 cars 1 way)*

TUES, 6/25/13

*thru*

TUES, 7/2/13 (up to 3pm)

**54% of these cars (7,552) travelling over 15mph**

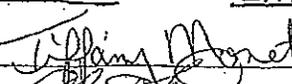
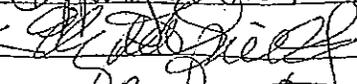
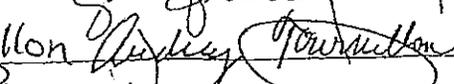
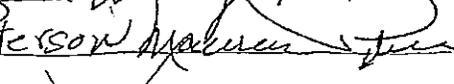
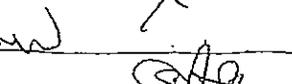
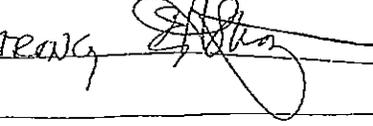
**2.5% (350 cars) travelling b/w 41-50 mph (1 way)**

RESIDENT SIGNATURES OPPOSED TO CLOSING OFF VINEYARD LN.

25	wire mill	Audrey Cantor	audwee@gmail.com
61	WIRE MILL	Katerina Papadimitriou	Katmap@hotmail
49	WIRE MILL	[Signature]	glenn_lu@yahoo.com
13	WIRE MILL	Opal Naiburg	203-322-9304
46	WIRE MILL	Puneet Gupta	203-274-2972 .nl puneetive@gmail.com
57	WIRE MILL	Ann Rice	ARICE@ROVCEA.VMS.CC
53	WIRE MILL	Leona Wadby	leona-wil@yahoo.com
56	WIRE MILL	Rosal Kove	hikoven@aol.com
73	WIRE MILL	Rhianus	sakain@optonline.com
76	WIRE MILL	Jacques Lander	203-522-1495
82	WIRE MILL	[Signature]	mhsjd@hotmail.com
90	WIRE MILL	Tony Roberts	nancygroberts@aol.com
83	WIRE MILL	Thomas P. Pinsky	catpie@optonline.net
003 94	WIRE MILL	[Signature]	lulu644@gmail.com
1	CEDAR TREE LN	W. L. Luf	wrcarm@gmail.com
30	Cedar Tree Ln	[Signature]	pamola-micinilio@att.net
4	Cedar Tree Lane	Audrey Cantor	audj299@yahoo.com
71	VINEYARD LANE	Ivo Ivanov	ivo.ivanov@gmail.com
5	Loughran Ave	Roxana Nova	rox.novanvzw@blacker.net
12	Loughran	[Signature]	MIMA@yahoo.com
11	Loughran	Carlos Preisling	CarlPreisling@gmail.com
17	Loughran	Mr. Fagnel	mnm850@yahoo.com
18	Loughran	[Signature]	203-722-1783
27	Loughran	[Signature]	[Blank]
26	[Blank]	[Blank]	[Blank]
33	Loughran	[Signature]	ap11209@gmail.com
41	Loughran	[Signature]	gentelsa@aol.com
47	Loughran	[Signature]	[Blank]
51	Loughran	[Signature]	YUW-19@optonline.com
36	Loughran	[Signature]	203-595-4474
7	HUNTING LANE	[Signature]	[Blank]

# Resident Signatures Opposed to Closing Off Vineyard Lane/Long Ridge

6/17/13

#	Street	Print Name	Signature	Email/#
71	BARNES RD	TIFFANY MONET		TIFFMONET@OPTONLINE.NET
69	BARNES RD	Elizabeth Jones		12spwks50@gmail.com
67	BARNES RD	Audrey Touraillon		20661-1938
7	BARNES RD West	MAURER Peterson		
8	BARNES RD W	W E Boydson		
11	BARNES RD West	ELIZABETH STRONG		

2

64	LOLEGRAU	<del>Miss (H)</del>	203 322 4774
69	11	<del>Miss (H)</del>	
<del>60</del>	2.2 NOLF 1/2 12	Angel H Per	alpscondhot.com
61			
65			
47	MALTBIE AVE	Ford Kim	
20	MID RIVER RUN	<del>Kay</del>	Kellyhoepentine.net
19	MID RIVER RUN	Judith Doffna	Judy HOFFMAN
14	MID RIVER RUN	Matt	Grant Matthews
8	MID RIVER RUN		
93	MALTBIE AV	Pat Lazzari	patlazzari@stglobel.net
115	MALTBIE AVE	Stiffinger	
62	Maltbie		
54	Maltbie		
29	Maltbie	Lindsay Hoffman	Lindsayemh@gm.com
40	MALTBIE AVE	Karett Samska	203 322 4774
46	Maltbie		
37	Maltbie		
26	Maltbie		
17	Maltbie		
907	Long Ridge		
893	Long Ridge		
877	Long Ridge		
945	Long Ridge	M. Will	g.p. (S) Danna @ gm.com Jwill@Chancechem
129	Wire Mill		
138	Wire Mill		
126			
160	WIRE MILL	John	SPOTMAN35CAOL
213	WIRE MILL		
233	WIRE MILL Rd	KATE FERENZI Kate Callahan Pam Fehnestock	Katecallahan@net.com 203-322-9071

209 wire Mill Rd  
2 Cedar Tree Lane

