

Halloween Street Closure Proposal

Board Proposal — Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Management for Halloween

Problem Statement

Halloween has grown into one of Lindale Park's signature neighborhood events, drawing over 1,000 visitors each year. That volume brings two compounding problems on event night:

- Traffic congestion: Vehicle traffic on our streets becomes heavy enough that it slows our own police patrols, undermining the very presence meant to keep the event safe.
- Pedestrian safety: With that many trick-or-treaters, families, and strollers sharing narrow residential streets with moving cars, the risk of a pedestrian-vehicle incident rises sharply.

Last year, we attempted to address this by placing crossing guards on Irvington. The officers on site felt the arrangement was not safe to hold, and the results fell short of what we needed. That experience made clear that a crossing-guard model isn't sufficient on its own — we need a design that reduces vehicle flow at the source rather than trying to manage it after the fact.

Proposed Solution

Pedestrianize a core stretch of city streets during the event to limit vehicle flow through the highest-traffic trick-or-treat area, rather than relying on staffing alone to manage traffic around pedestrians.

Why Not Irvington

Irvington was ruled out by the City. It's classified as a major thoroughfare, and the City will not approve a full closure there.

Primary Option: Helmers

We are exploring Helmers as our primary closure corridor:

- 8 blocks, from Avenue of Oaks to Gale
- Cross traffic will still be allowed at each intersection, preserving neighborhood through-flow
- Turns onto Helmers itself will be blocked using traffic cones
- Officers will be stationed at each intersection to allow cross traffic through and to let Helmers residents exit their block if needed

The final design — barrier placement, staffing levels, and any additional measures — will depend on the City's security requirements and associated costs (e.g., insurance) once our security plan is reviewed.

Staffing & Cost Estimate:

- Planning for 9 officers to staff the closure and surrounding intersections
- Estimated total cost: approximately \$3,000, covering officer staffing and traffic cones — final figure pending the City's security review

Process, Timeline & City Coordination

- A security plan must be finalized before the City will accept a permit application — this is the current focus of planning.
- The final permit must be submitted 30 days before the event; submitting later triggers an expedited-processing fee.
- Council Member Mario Castillo's office has been engaged and will provide support once our plan is further developed.
- We will request support from Castillo's office to help spread awareness of the new Halloween traffic plan and assist with any city permit requests.

Funding

- This initiative will be funded entirely through our Boos & Booze campaign.
- Any overages will be absorbed through the Lindale Littles budget.
- Given the added draw of a pedestrian-friendly design, we anticipate this year's campaign will outperform prior years.

Community Impact & Benefit

- This has been requested by parents for years, but the upfront planning and coordination effort has kept it out of reach until now.
- Households directly impacted by the closure will be notified in advance.
- Net benefit to the neighborhood: closing key streets to through-traffic should reduce emergency responder transit time in the event of an incident, since patrols and first responders won't be fighting congestion to move through the area.

Discussion Points for the Board

- Sign-off to proceed with finalizing the Helmers security plan for City submission
- Boos & Booze planning and kickoff is critical to funding this proposal