

Petition Asks Rehearing On One-Way Street Plan

A petition with 84 signatures requesting a rehearing on one-way streets in downtown Santa Cruz was submitted to the city council last night.

Former mayor and councilman Pat Freeman submitted it in a tense, brief session at the opening of the council meeting.

The petition represents more than 50 per cent of businesses on Pacific avenue and Front street, he said.

"If it does," Mayor John Daly said, "the council will consider another hearing at its next meeting."

Freeman, a druggist, is one of several businessmen who have protested to the council that they will be out of business before the three-to-six-month trial on the one-way system — southbound on Pacific avenue and northbound on Front street — is completed.

They were told last week that a petition with a substantial number of names might move the council to rehearing.

Mayor Daly warned Freeman when he sought recognition last night that "the council has exhausted its patience with certain people" on the one-way street issue.

"I don't care to enter discussion. May I present a petition."

Umunhum Control Is Seen Tonight

Control of the Mount Umunhum and Loma Prieta brush and timber fire which has blackened 8220 acres in its nine day run, is anticipated tonight around 10 o'clock.

George Britton, fire boss and division of forestry ranger for Santa Clara county, said the fire was 90 per cent contained. Clearings have been carved around the burning fronts and backfiring within the lines is now in progress.

While interest in this fire is

"Do I have your permission?" Freeman replied acidly.

He said the names represent separate businessmen on Pacific avenue and Front street.

"This represents very well over 50 per cent of those in business on the two streets."

There was no discussion after the mayor's acceptance of the list. Seven other businessmen walked out with Freeman.

Later in the evening, the council heard reports on the trial traffic program.

Chief of Police Geno Pini announced results of a radar check made on lower Front street for one hour yesterday afternoon. Cars in various speed brackets were as follows: 15-20, 195 autos; 20-25, 182 autos; 25-30, 73; 30-35, 4. Three citations were issued.

The speed limit is 25, but enforcement level was 30 miles per hour, Pini said.

Speed has been one of the primary complaints about the one-way loop. City Manager Peter Tedesco announced yesterday that stricter enforcement in this area has been asked.

He made a three-point report last night:

1. There have been three vehicular accidents on the loop in its 35 days. There were nine during the same period last year. He noted that the period is too short for anything but a "spotty sample."

2. Modification to eliminate southerly crosswalks at Pacific and Locust, Cooper and Church — possibly other streets — has been suggested by the staff traffic advisory committee. This would not be instituted unless the one-way is permanent.

3. There are 10 bus stops on Pacific avenue, six on Front, and two on Water. This was reported in answer to complaints of Santa Cruz Transit company that it does not have enough pickup points.

Pini said that the pedestrian "walk" signal at Pacific-Soquel-Lincoln is about optimum when need to move traffic along the short Soquel block between Pacific and Front is taken into consideration. Pedestrians have about 17 seconds to make the "scramble" crossing.

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