

LWV OPRF League of Women Voters 2022 Observer Report -

Village of Oak Park Board Meeting

President and Board of Trustees

September 19, 2022 – 4 hours, remote meeting

Village Board Closes Oak Park Gas Stations from 12-5am

Consent Agenda

- The Board passed an Ordinance **to close all Oak Park gas stations from the hours of 12am to 5am** in an effort to curb violent acts during this time. Attorney David Jasper, representing one of the gas stations, spoke before the vote in defense of remaining open overnight. He said there was no evidence that an overnight close would have any effect on crime, and gas stations could continue to work with the Village to increase lighting and surveillance.
- The Village has had 13 violent offences occur at Oak Park gas stations after midnight in the last three and a half years. After some discussion they voted unanimously to pass the Ordinance. (ORD 22-65)
- The Board listened to a presentation by the Village Engineer about the status of the **I-290 Reconstruction Project**. The Board discussed the scope of the bridge reconstruction, including the overall design concept. President Scaman spoke of wanting to reconnect the community, north and south. They approved a motion to direct staff to issue a Request for Qualifications and Proposals for the Engineering Design of the Home Avenue Bridge. (MO 22-85)
- The Village did not approve a Resolution to install a **pinch point on the 600 block of North Euclid**, which was being proposed to reduce speed and drive through traffic in the area. The Village first looked at this issue in 2019 due to citizen concerns, and public comments for this meeting were made in favor of installing traffic mitigation measures. Arguments against the installation of a pinch point came down to cost (\$33,000), and how this only addresses only one block instead of the comprehensive traffic problems in the Village. The vote on this Resolution was 3 v 3, so the Motion didn't pass. (RES 22-237)

Public Comments

Peggy Kell, representing the LWVOPRF, requested the Board include a referendum question on Ranked Choice Voting to be included on the April 2023 ballot. If passed, it would go into effect before the 2025 election. She offered to give the Board a more detailed presentation on Ranked Choice Voting.

Observer: Amber L Elmer