

## RESIDENTS COMPLAIN ABOUT VANDALISM, DRIVERS

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Residents of Valley Drive in South Charleston complained to city officials of vandalism and reckless drivers, problems they say the city has failed to adequately address.

Representatives from the Islamic Center told South Charleston City Council Thursday that the mosque had been the target of vandalism, causing them to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Members Rick Doneghy and Mark Shahbandy cited several incidents.

"We have had graffiti painted on the outside," Shahbandy said. "We even had someone drive by and shoot out one of the windows."

Other residents of Valley Drive filled council chambers to ask for a solution to their neighborhood's speeding problems.

"You might call our street Valley Drag Strip instead of Valley Drive," resident James Stevens said.

Although police had been in the area before, Stevens and other residents said the problem had not been resolved. Councilman Paul Neal agreed action needed to be taken, but said more police should be placed in the area before any speed bumps are put in.

"I think we should try radar first," Neal said. "This is not the time to vote on speed bumps."

Mayor Robb disagreed. He said that if a neighborhood "had a speeding problem then speed bumps were the solution."

"I have always thought that," Robb said.

"I live there and have children," resident Steve Monday said. "If one of my kids get hit I will sue the city."

Council decided to post police with radar equipment in the area. Neal said if that did not work, then speed bumps would be the next step.

Shahbandy of the Islamic Center said he contacted the South Charleston Police Department several times, but nothing had been done. He also contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning the shooting.

"We just want to be a part of the community," Shahbandy said. "I invite anyone to come and visit the center."

Neal suggested that the center install more outside lighting. Shahbandy agreed, noting that the center is installing outside surveillance equipment.

In other business, Council decided to change the city's Clydesdale Drive to Eagle Drive. The decision is the third name the road has had since December. Previously the road was named Budweiser Drive.

"I guess three is a charm," Councilman Sonny Holstine said.

Controversy over the name began in December, when Central Distributing Company owner Richard Barber asked council to name the road Budweiser Drive. Members of the Charleston's First Church of God petitioned council for a name change last month.

The church is building a \$1.8 million facility near Central Distributing and thought the name was not appropriate. The second name of Clydesdale was also unacceptable to church members.

A meeting between Barber and church members resulted in the suggested Eagle Drive name.

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