

Hiawatha Student Safety To Be Enhanced

(KNZA)- Steps will be taken to improve the safety of Hiawatha Elementary School students crossing a nearby street.

On the recommendation of Police Chief John Defore, the Hiawatha City Commission Monday evening approved the installation of no parking signs on 5th Street at Hiawatha Avenue along with a speed bump to slow vehicles down.

Defore said some residents had voiced safety concerns about children leaving the school through the gates on the east side and crossing the street to go to the Latch Key Program at the nearby Methodist Church or to vehicles parked nearby. He said it's hard to see the children because of the parked vehicles and there is a potential for a child to get struck by a vehicle.

Defore said he spoke to Elementary School Principal Tom Schmitz about the issue, and he was supportive.

Also on the recommendation of Defore, the commission approved the installation of three no parking signs in the driveway of the elementary school in order to alleviate traffic congestion after school.

Following a closed door session, the commission approved the hiring of a part time officer at a salary of \$12.50 a hour.

The commission also approved bonuses for city employees---\$50 for full-time employees and \$25 for part-time employees.

Many Signals Communications