

Brad Hornbacher  
700 S. Alhambra Circle  
Coral Gables, FL 33146  
(305) 606-4113

February 7, 2008

**Via E-Mail & U.S. Mail**

Ms. Darby Plummer  
Ms. Robin Taylor Symons  
Ms. Judy Kries  
Ms. Haydee Polo  
Dr. Manuel Seaga  
Ms. Martha Serola  
Mr. Guy Smith  
c/o Parks & Recreation Department  
405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

**Re: Elimination of Park on S. Alhambra Circle Between Camarin  
and Mindelo (the "Park") By Creation of a Proposed Traffic  
Calming Circle at the intersection of S. Alhambra Circle,  
Veronese Street, and Mindello (the "Traffic Circle")**

Dear Parks Advisory Board Members:

I am writing to request your assistance in preventing the elimination of the referenced Park.

Enclosed is a letter from the Department of Public Works that I and many of my neighbors recently received with respect to a proposed Traffic Circle. Attached to the letter is a map that depicts the existing Park with the dimensions and location of the proposed Traffic Circle superimposed over the Park.

As members of the Advisory Board, I am certain that you are aware that there are ever fewer and smaller green and open spaces within the City Beautiful. I believe that the Park is an open green space worthy of your attention and protection. It has a magnificent oak tree and a stone picnic table. Many individuals from within and outside of the neighborhood stop from time to time to spend a quiet moment in the Park. Our local postmen are daily visitors.

The proposed Traffic Circle would completely eviscerate the Park. As can be seen from the enclosed map, the eastern most and widest portion of the Park would be subsumed by asphalt or marooned in the center of the proposed Traffic Circle. As is evident from other traffic circles that have been recently constructed in the neighborhood, the centers of these circles become isolated landscaped areas which are unusable and/or


are unsafe to use due to the volume traffic coursing around those circles. In addition to eliminating the Park, the proposed plan shows the western edge of the Traffic Circle coming dangerously close to the magnificent oak tree that is located within the Park. It would be unfortunate if the road bed excavation for the Traffic Circle irreparably damaged roots of this wonderful tree.

If the Traffic Circle is implemented as currently designed, all that would remain of the Park would be a narrow sliver of land (maybe 10 Ft. wide at most) that would extend in a westerly direction from the western edge of the Traffic Circle. This sliver would be so narrow that it would be too uncomfortable, with the redirected traffic passing close by on each side, to even attempt to use it as a park or open space.

Based on conversations with the Public Works Department, the principal goal that it hopes to achieve through implementation of the Traffic Circle is to slow down west bound traffic entering S. Alhambra Circle from Granada. I believe that this goal can be better achieved or addressed by: (a) enforcing the existing traffic laws. (b) adding stop signs, and/or (c) an alternative configuration of the Traffic Circle. There is alternative configuration of a traffic circle which was implemented in 2003 (the outlines of which remain marked on the street). Implementation of this circle would not in any way affect the Park and minimize the alteration of adjacent berms on all sides of the Traffic Circle. Its seems to be a more efficient and less destructive means of calming westbound traffic on S. Alhambra Circle, and seemingly would be less expensive that then hundreds of thousands of dollars that the City has spent to construct other traffic circles in the neighborhood.

I hope that you can appreciate my concerns and that you will support my efforts to prevent the elimination of the Park, which is one of the few remaining open spaces in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Brad Hornbacher

cc: Dr. Mark Brown (702 S. Alhambra Circle)  
Helene Troup (730 S. Alhambra Circle)  
Anthony Abraham (727 S. Alhambra Circle)  
Thomas Lauria, Esq. (6800 Veronese Street)  
Scott Sime (701 S. Alhambra Circle)



## The City of Coral Gables

Public Works Department  
2800 SW 72 AVENUE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33155

January 18, 2008

Re: *Traffic Calming on South Alhambra Circle at the  
intersection of Veronese Street  
Coral Gables, Florida*

Dear Resident:

Through our traffic calming program, the City of Coral Gables is working with the Miami-Dade County to address the existing traffic conditions along South Alhambra Circle.

In order to reduce the speeding along this corridor, the City's traffic consultant has recommended the implementation of a traffic circle at South Alhambra Circle and Veronese Street. (See enclosed drawing)

The Public Works Department is in the process of obtaining the approval from Miami-Dade County for the installation of this device. In order to proceed, the City must first obtain concurrence from the majority of the affected area residents/property owners along the adjacent one block stretch from all directions, per Miami-Dade County guidelines.

Please be advised that this letter will serve as an official ballot to submit your vote whether you are or are not in favor of the installation of this device. Please submit your vote on/or prior to February 20, 2008 in the self-addressed-stamped envelope provided for your convenience. Only ONE vote per residence, please. Thank you.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am in favor of the installation of a traffic circle at South Alhambra Circle at Veronese Street.

\_\_\_\_ No, I am not in favor of the installation of traffic circle at South Alhambra Circle at Veronese Street.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. Should you need further information, please feel free to contact Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer, at 305-460-5018.

Sincerely,

R. Alberto Delgado, P.E.  
Public Works Director

Property at: 700 S ALHAMBRA CIR  
CESAR L ALVAREZ and W KATHLEEN or Current Resident  
700 SO ALHAMBRA CIR  
CORAL GABLES FL 33146-3802

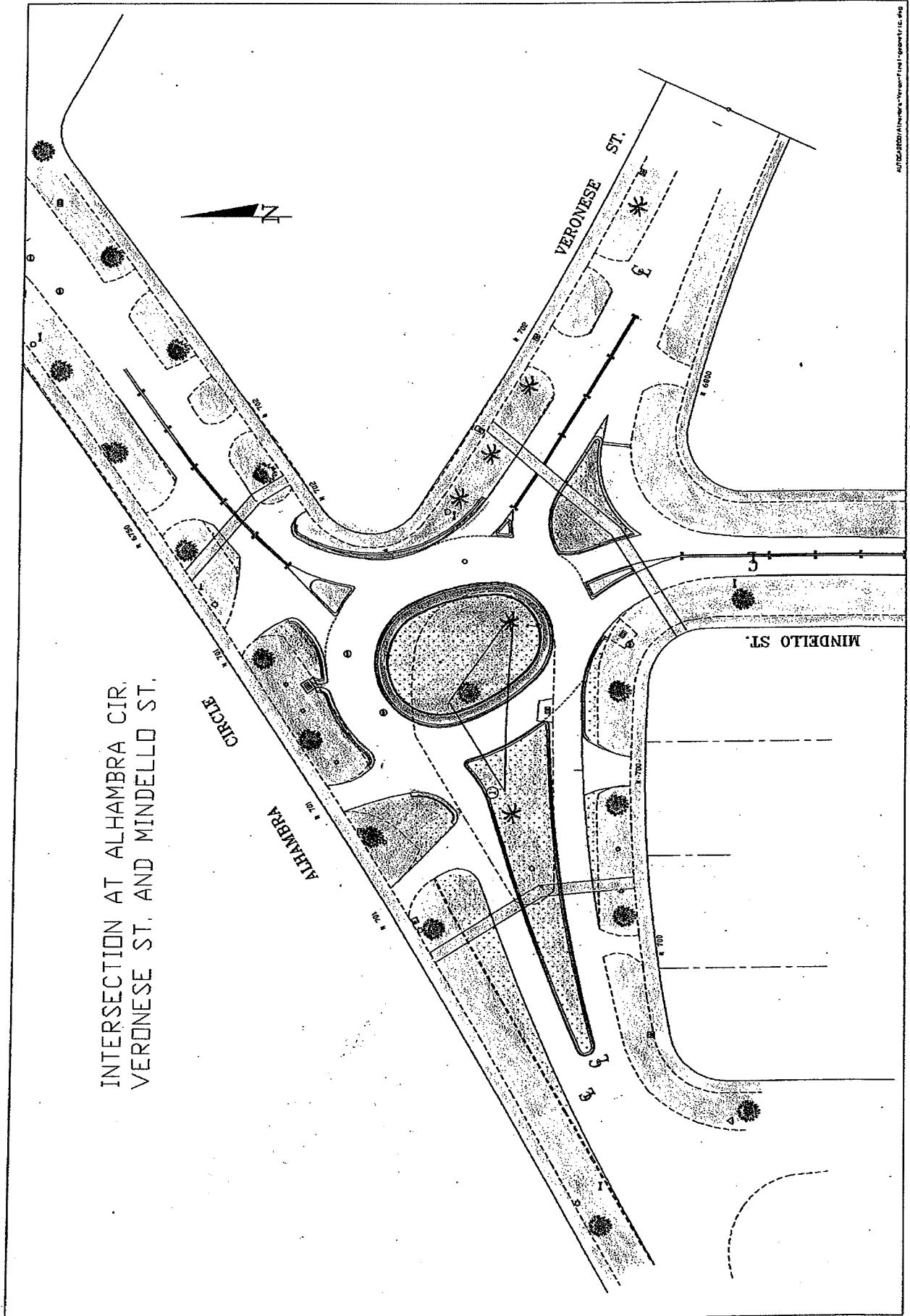
C: Thomas D. Springer, P.E., Engineering Division Supervisor  
Esther Zabalo, Civil Engineer

P.O. Box 141549

CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33114-1549

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INTERSECTION AT ALHAMBRA CIR.  
VERONESE ST. AND MINDELLO ST.