

Opposition to the Proposed Permanent Closure of the 3rd & Lindero Entrance/Exit to the Public Parking Lot Adjacent to Walgreens

lisa merigian <[REDACTED]>

Mon 12/21/2020 4:58 PM

To: Kate Colin <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org>

Cc: Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>; Bill Guerin <Bill.Guerin@cityofsanrafael.org>; Jim Schutz <Jim.Schutz@cityofsanrafael.org>; April Miller <April.Miller@cityofsanrafael.org>

 4 attachments (16 MB)

258383BF-4236-4FAE-98F6-2DF5058027E3.jpeg; 3EFBBD79-3AC2-47D8-82EB-89627FBC0D4A.jpeg; 53F58F1B-4A7D-4EE8-A0B2-29CE0A361265.jpeg; 7F8C5392-C4DA-4CE7-8811-892C3A3731AB.jpeg;

Dear Madam Mayor and City Council,

I am writing today with regards to the proposed permanent closure of the 3rd & Lindero Exit/Entrance to the public parking lot adjacent to Walgreen's.

I, and a growing body of others, oppose this closure on the basis of the many safety concerns and hazards for pedestrians and motorists that this closure raises and creates for us. Many have legitimate fears for our continued safety- concerns which I and others have been raising for months, with little to no meaningful response from the City.

What does the City need us to do so that we may discuss our concerns with you? Tell us, and we will do it.

By now you will have received from individuals in the greater San Rafael community numerous online submissions through the City Council's "contact" form, or direct letters to the Council. Small, local businesses have been reaching out to you and to the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce for support and guidance about how to have their voices heard. My letter will herein contain a simple petition with 40 signatures of local residents, business owners and employees, opposing the closure and asking only that the City please stop moving forward with the closure, take the meeting to hear us, and integrate our suggestions and feedback. We are asking for the same courtesy that seems to have been extended to other stakeholders. Many of which simply by virtue of their existence as an "official" body of representatives enjoy a more direct and/or organized line of communication with the City and her various departments.

I'm not exactly sure where it's coming from, but the general tone being reflected is that somehow the City and its various departments are related to us as people complaining because we are worried about being inconvenienced. While there will always be those who want to short-cut and bend rules, to use lots and driveways and whatever else to avoid lights or waiting, the majority of residents, employees and business owners I've spoken with are interested in our safety. We see the proposed closure as harmful on many levels. We see it as actually dangerous, and in some aspects more dangerous than what now exists. It feels extremely dismissive to have our legitimate safety concerns reduced to matters of convenience. We do live here and we are your pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. We do have a vested interest in our own safety. Presumably, in fact, it is OUR safety that the City hopes to protect in making the changes. We hope for that also. Which is why we would like someone to hear us.

I've also attached a map outlining some of the dangers we see with the closure, including increased pedestrian encounters, multiple dangerous diagonal lane crosses on 3rd and 2nd Streets, and the

unnecessary traffic clog and congestion resulting from the closure.

This is not an exhaustive list, but here are a few emerging concerns being raised by various community members. And while I don't represent anyone in any official way, I have done my best to include comments from the many individuals I have spoken with directly over the past few weeks.

Residents, Business Owners, and Employees who frequent this area have significant safety concerns that the **permanent closure** will:

- **Decrease overall pedestrian, bicyclist and motorist safety**
- **Increase frequency of pedestrian-vehicle encounters** at many other nearby intersections (many without stop-lights for safety)
- **Increase pedestrian/vehicle AND vehicle/vehicle collision potential**
- **Create dangerous traffic patterns/choices** for motorists (cutting diagonally across lanes of fast-moving on-coming traffic)
- **Create unsafe conditions in the lot** which is not designed for only one exit (fire/evacuation concerns)
- **Increase traffic congestion** on adjacent streets including 3rd, 4th, Cijos, & Lootens (bad for business and more traffic hazards)

We are individual citizens and we are doing our best to respond, mobilize, vocalize, and weigh-in on this issue. We don't have the benefit of an organization or business representing us. And yet, we are genuinely trying.

Personally, I am simply trying to educate myself and to help others do the same so that we may understand how best to have our voices heard. We don't have a collective voice, so you just hear from us wily nilly. But you are hearing from us!!! For months we have been trying to get someone's attention. We know that the Council is interested in us, in our perspective, and in our feedback, but we haven't known how to get it to you. So, we write, submit letters, etc., but we run the risk of being branded "complainers" if we have no clear and direct path to impact the project.

What else can we do?

One of the difficulties in responding to this project is that this project, the Third Street Safety Project, continues to be confused with the Third Street Rehabilitation Project. There is currently much confusion. The DPW website is unclear. The plans for the proposed closure don't seem to be available. Even the Marin IJ continues to get it wrong, printing false hopes that there is additional community check-ins planned for this project. **There are currently no additional check-ins AT ALL planned for this, the Third Street Safety Project.** The check-ins are all for the highly publicized Third Street Rehabilitation Project. They are not the same project. This is misleading to the community.

On the one hand, the public continues to be told that this project is "not a done deal." On the other hand, all inquiries about how to impact the course of the project are met with the simple statement that the DPW is moving along with the proposed closure "as directed by the City." What does that mean, exactly? And who do we talk to so that we may compel them to direct DPW to entertain and explore the many safety enhancements once a part of the initial proposal and now being offered again by many in the community. Not an exhaustive list, but here are a few solutions to the safety and traffic flow problems being offered by the community. Again, I've done my best here to incorporate and include many ideas presented:

- **Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Measures at existing 3rd & Lindaro entrance/exit:**
 - Paint standard white pedestrian crosswalk lane lines on driveway crossing
 - Paint bold white stripes in resulting crosswalk area of the driveway
 - Create curbs and standard ramps leading to driveway
 - Install truncated safety dome pads on entrance to crosswalk area of driveway
 - Install modern pedestrian crossing signal with a brighter display
 - Remove shrubs along 3rd for greater pedestrian visibility
 - Consider installing an additional pedestrian crosswalk on West side of Lindaro@3rd St. (pedestrians walking up Lindaro from places like BioMarin could altogether avoid the driveway) (was part of the initial proposal as recently as June 2020)
- **Enhanced Road/Driveway Conditions at existing 3rd & Lindaro entrance/exit:**
 - Level the dip at 3rd St. where it intersects with the entrance/exit (possibly already happening as part of the 3rd St. Rehabilitation Project).
 - Consider widening the 3rd & Lindaro exit/entrance (was part of the initial proposal as recently as June 2020)
- **Deterrents to Cut-Throughs**
 - Install large speed bumps inside the parking lot at the Lootens entrance, the Lindaro & 3rd St. exit, and the path that connects them
 - Post multiple "NO CUT-THROUGH" signs.
 - Consider adopting traffic law that makes doing so a ticket-able offense

How did over a decade of the community's pleas to "PLEASE make this area safer for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists!" turn from a proposal to widen the entrance, enhance the side walk, create a legitimate curb, install standard pedestrian safety measures like cross walk lanes, and install an additional crosswalk (**all actions to ENHANCE safety with IMPROVEMENTS**), to closing down and walling-off this vital ingress/egress from such a busy, active, lot?

And whatever led to it, shouldn't the public at large be admitted to the table and kept in the loop? We are trying to understand the project and how to impact it. And there is no clear path for us.

We are asking the City Council to intervene in some way and give us a path. Whatever that path is, we will take it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lisa Merigian

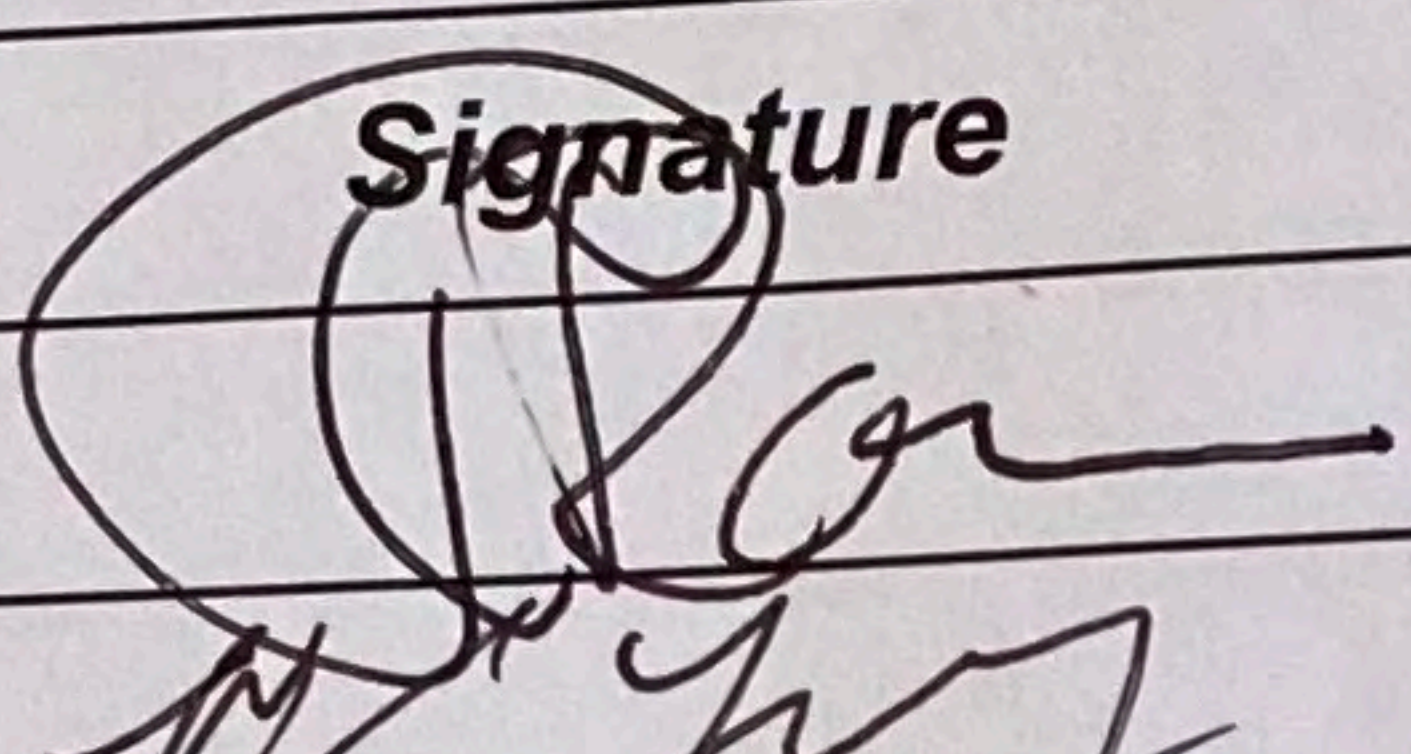
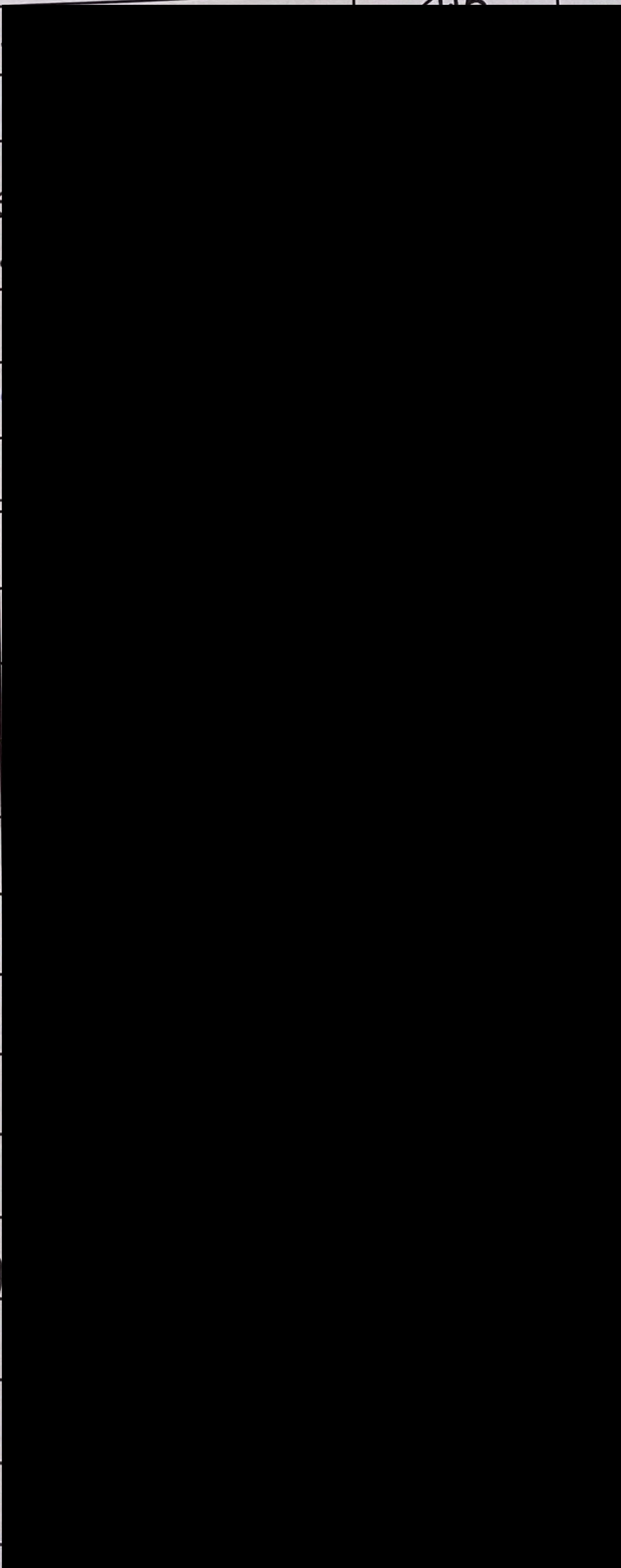
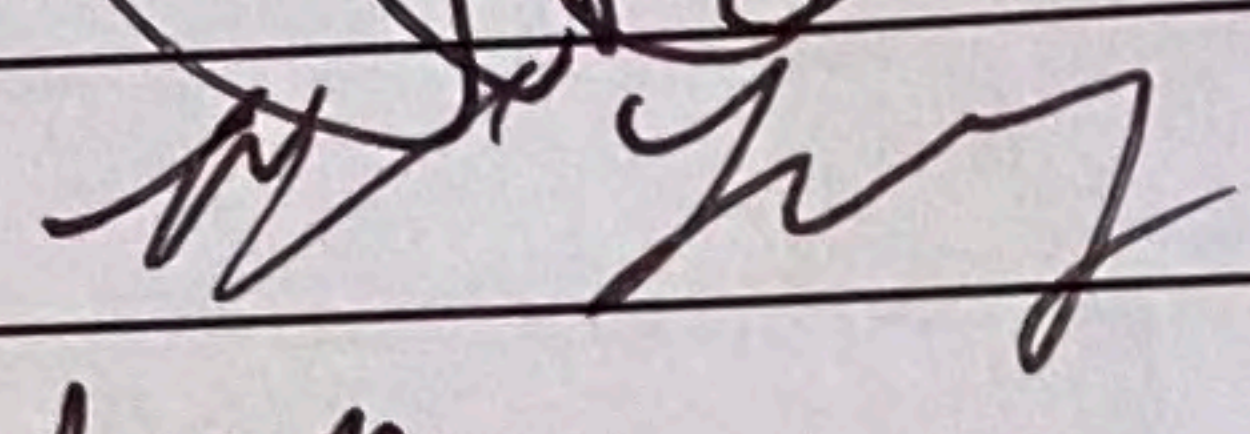
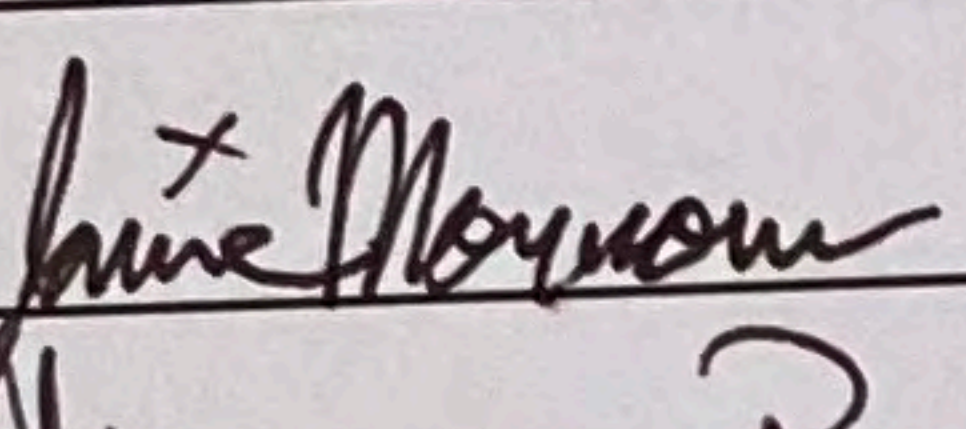
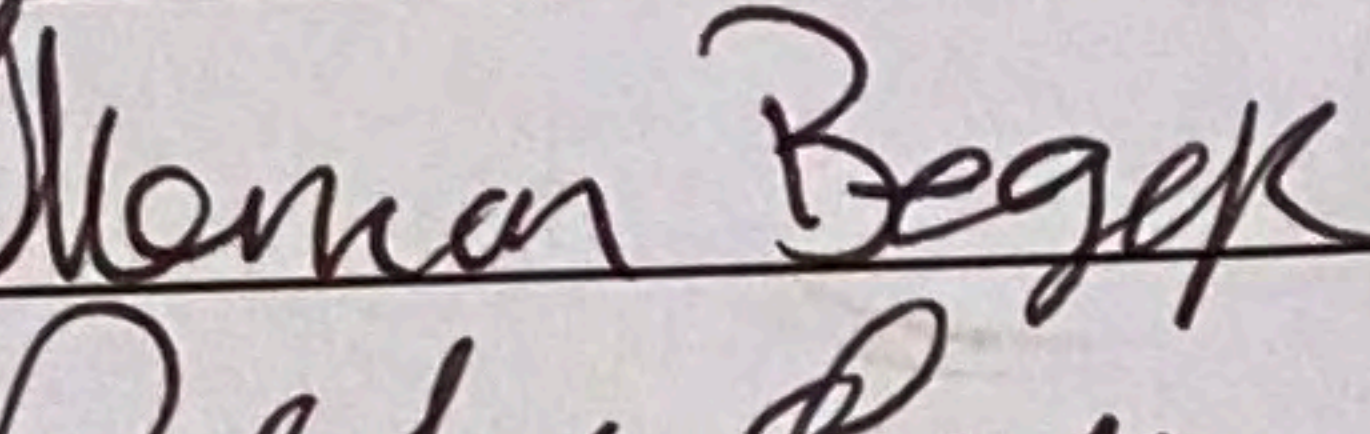
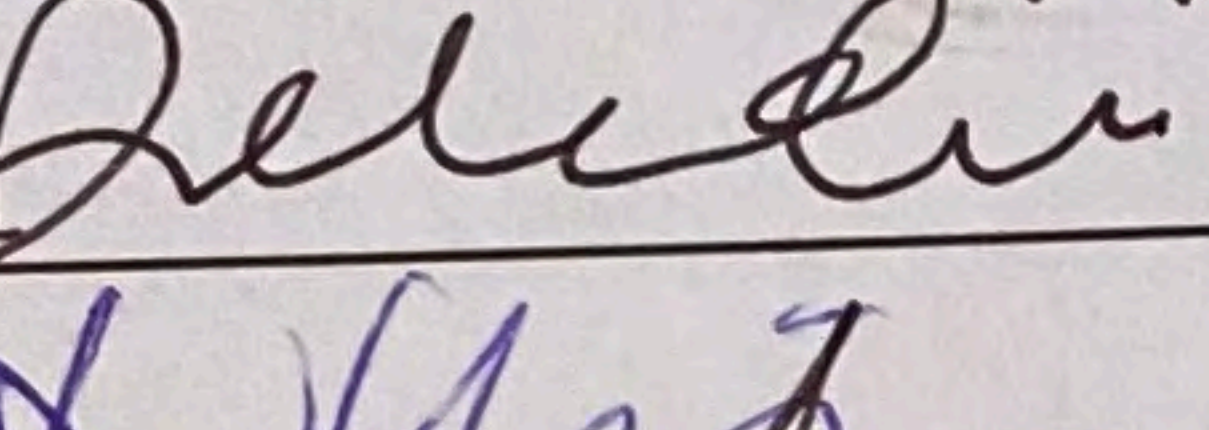
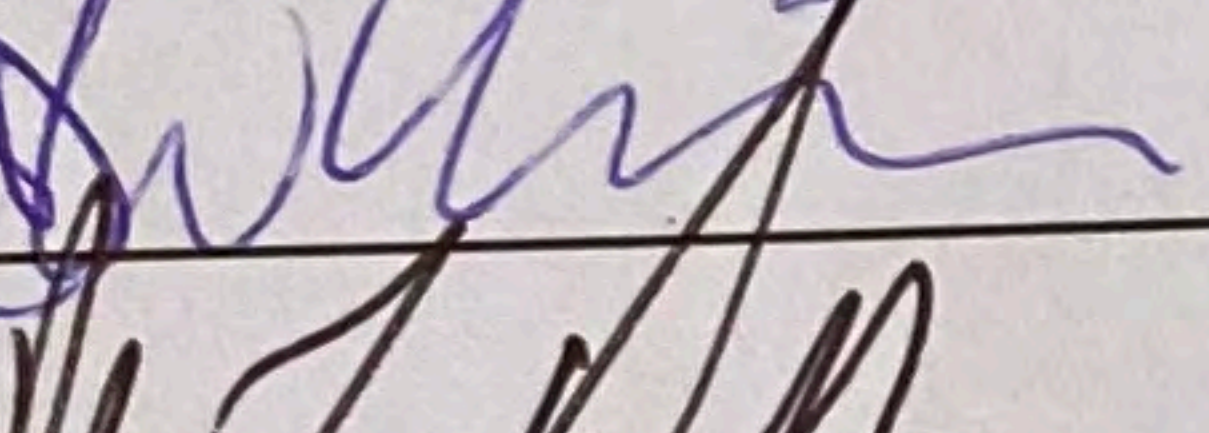
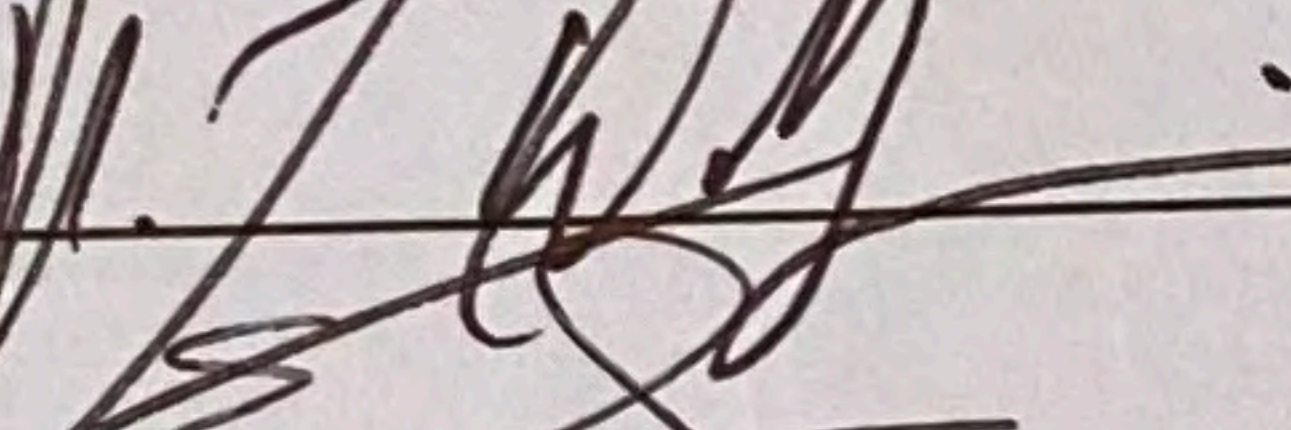
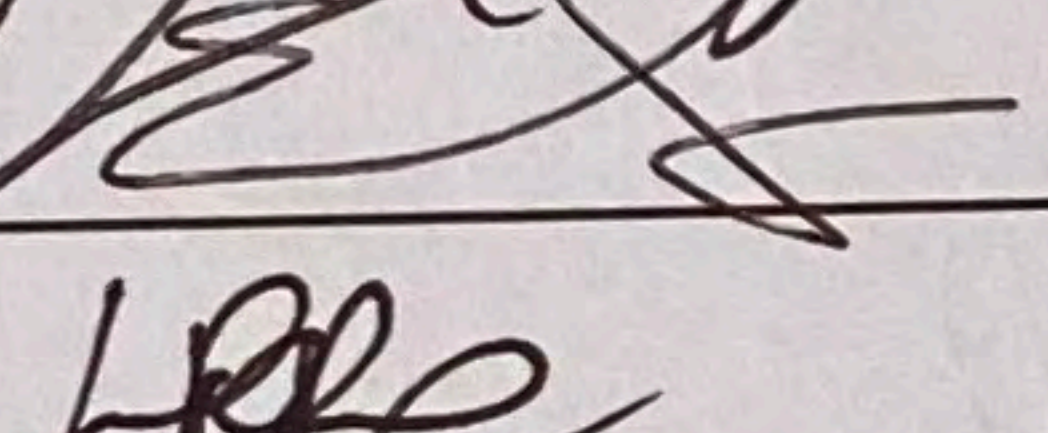
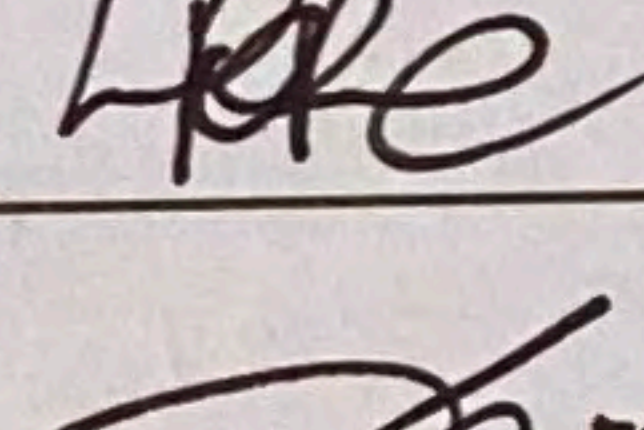
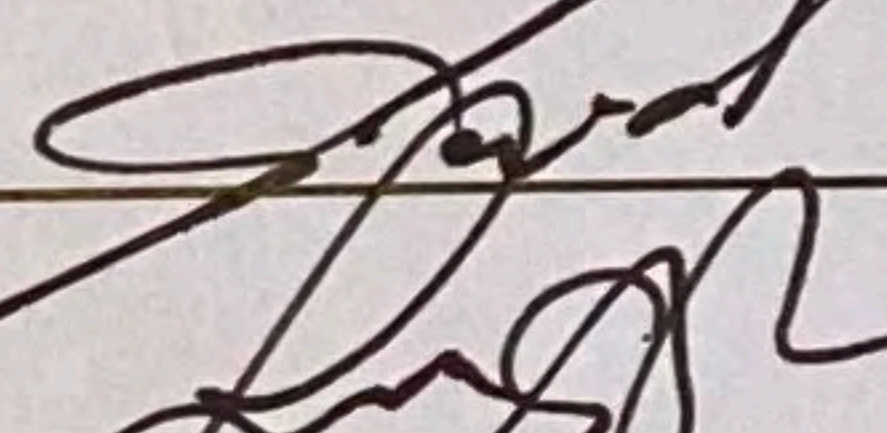
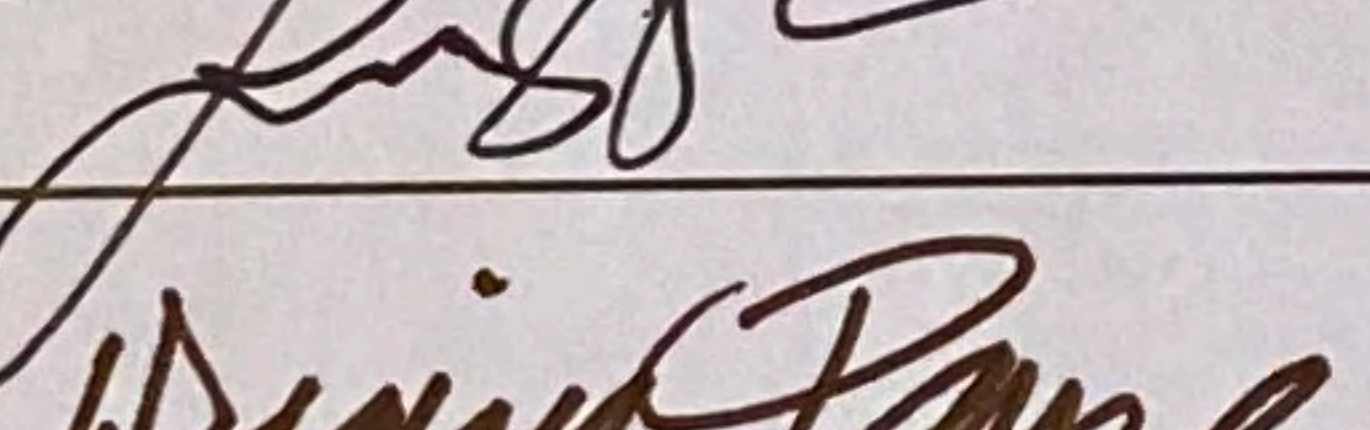
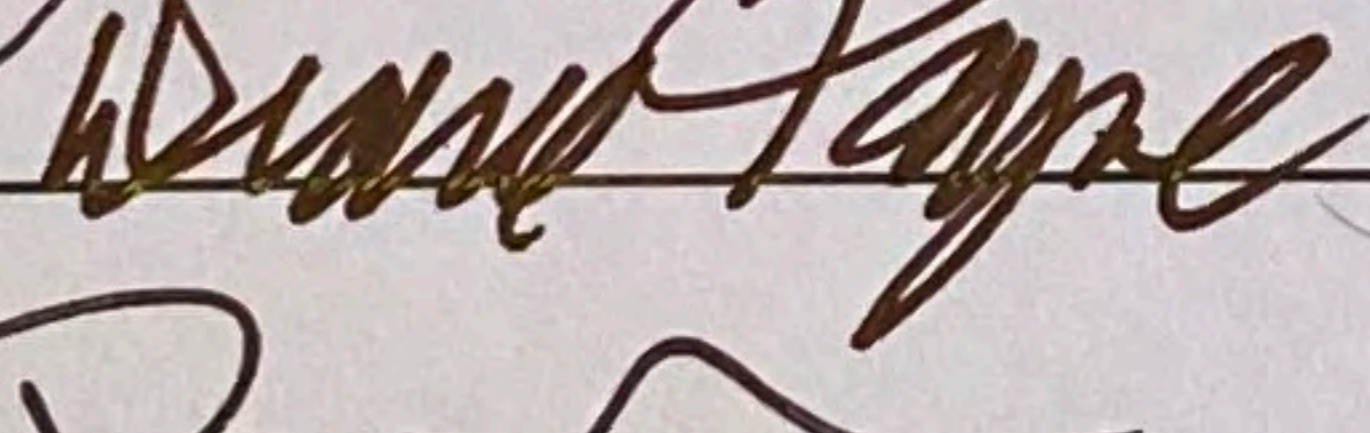
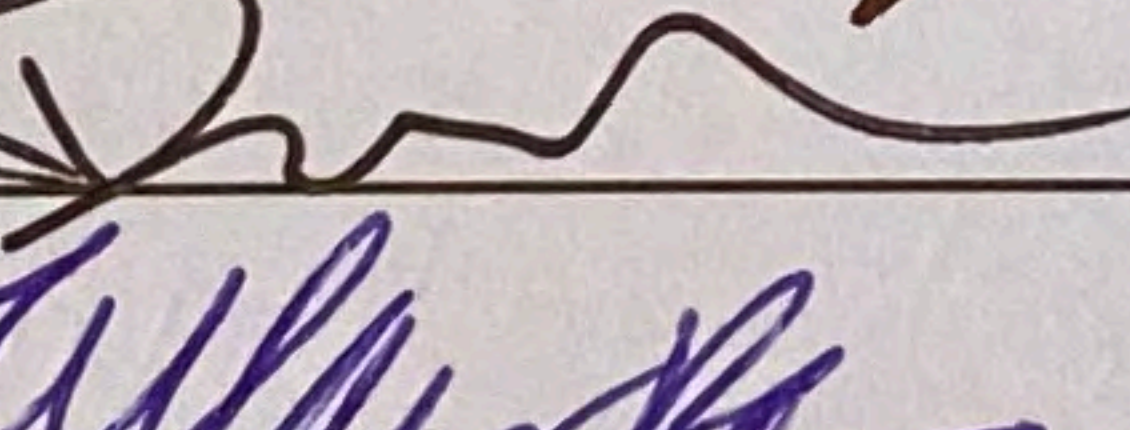
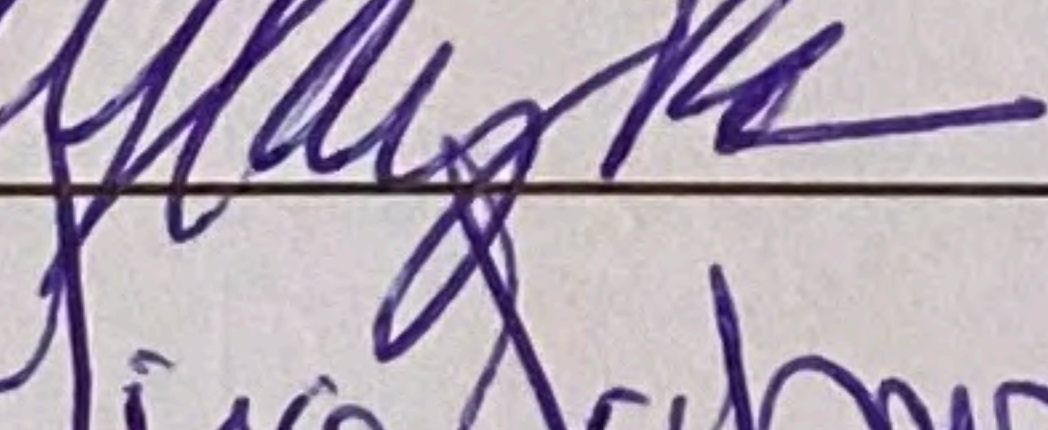
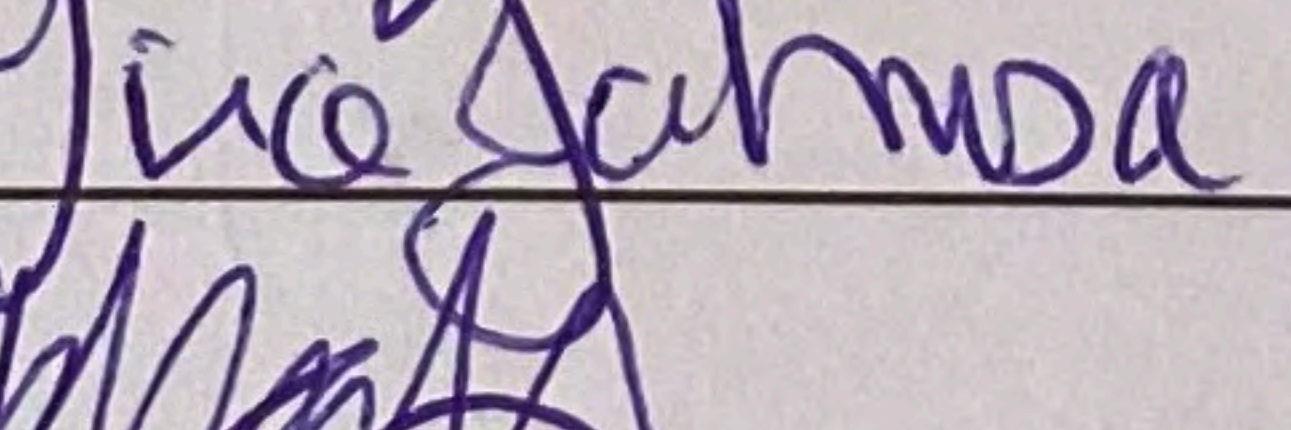
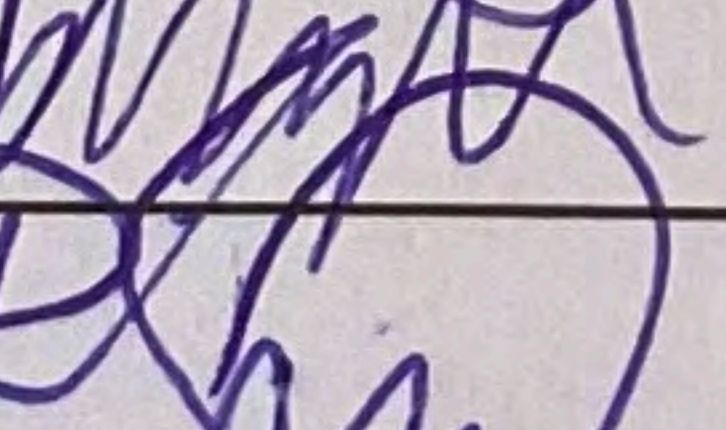
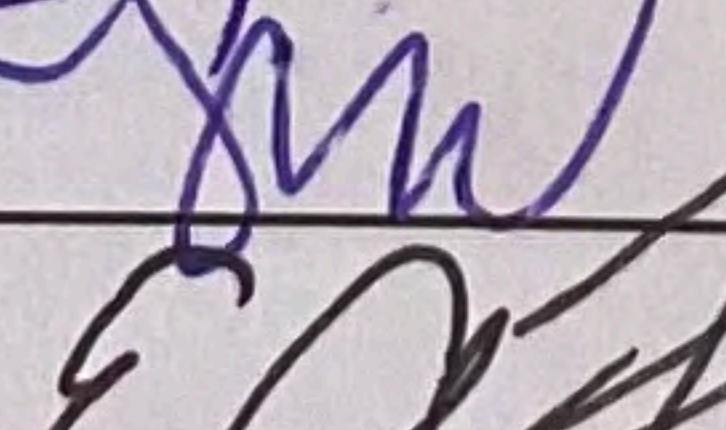
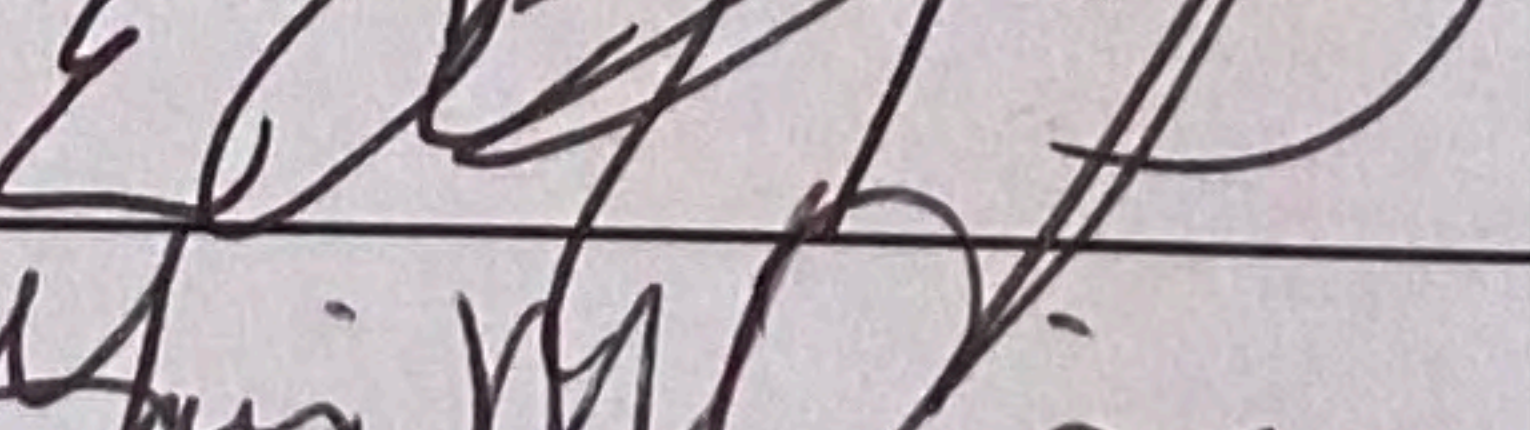
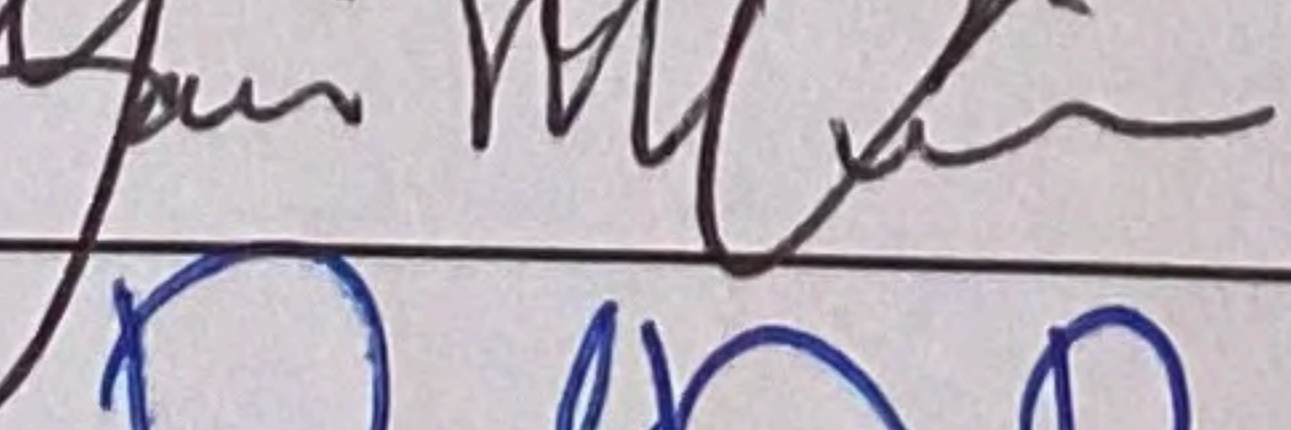
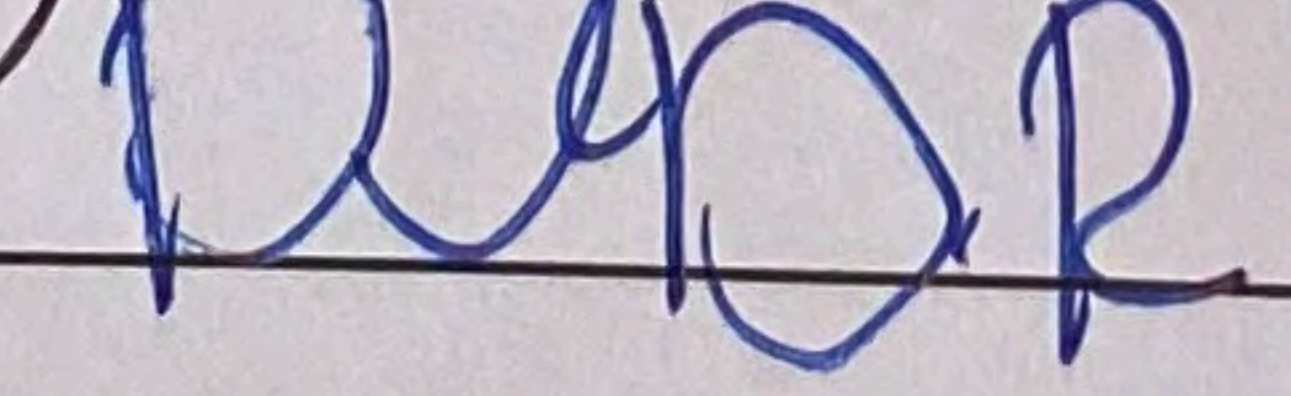
Please STOP the Permanent closure of the 3rd & Lindaro
Entrance/Exit to the Public Lot adjacent to Walgreens
Allow more time for public comment and integrated community feedback

Sign the Petition

	PRINT NAME	Signature	Email	Phone	Date
1	Katherine Garcia	Katherine G			9/20
2	Darin Chun	Darin Chun			12/20/20
3	Mary Kelly	Mary Kelly			12/20/20
4	Tulane Baker	Tulane Baker			12/20/20
5	Amy Lanco	Amy Lanco			12/20/20
6	Gabi Lovelace	Gabi Lovelace			12/20/20
7	Jared Yocam	Jared Yocam			
8	JARED YOCAM	Jared Yocam			12/20/20
9	Ryder Metzger	Ryder Metzger			12/20/20
10	Michelle Gamble	Michelle Gamble			12/21
11	Karen Bauer	Karen Bauer			12/21/20
12	JORDAN DEVELX	Jordan Develx			12/21/20
13	Dr. Gordon	Dr. Gordon			12/21/20
14	MARCUS LAMPLEY	Marcus Lampley			12/21/20
15	Raquel Cummins	Raquel Cummins			12/21/20
16	Suzanne Nathans	Suzanne Nathans			12/21/20
17	Anne Marie Crussell	Anne Marie Crussell			12/21-20
18	Anne Marie Crussell	Anne Marie Crussell			12/21/20
19	Carol Kress	Carol Kress			12/21/20
20					

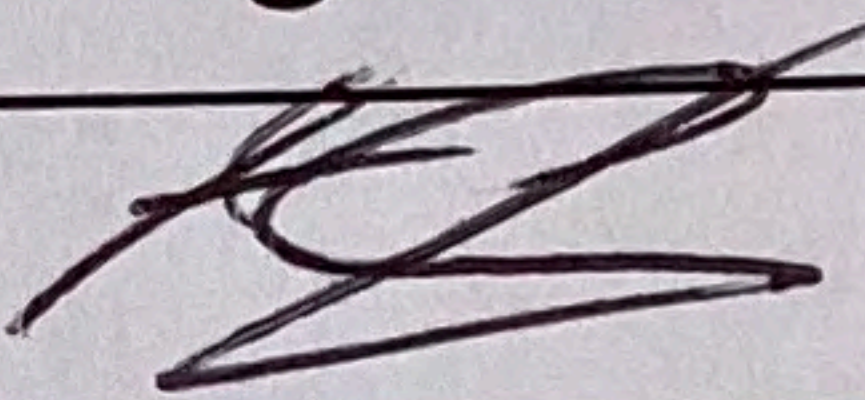

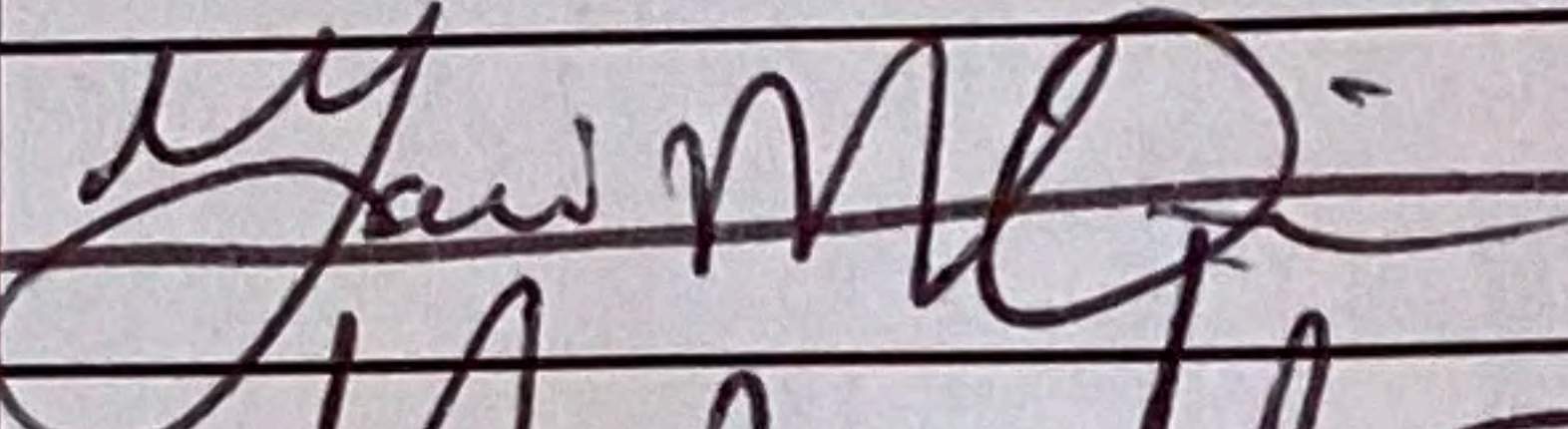
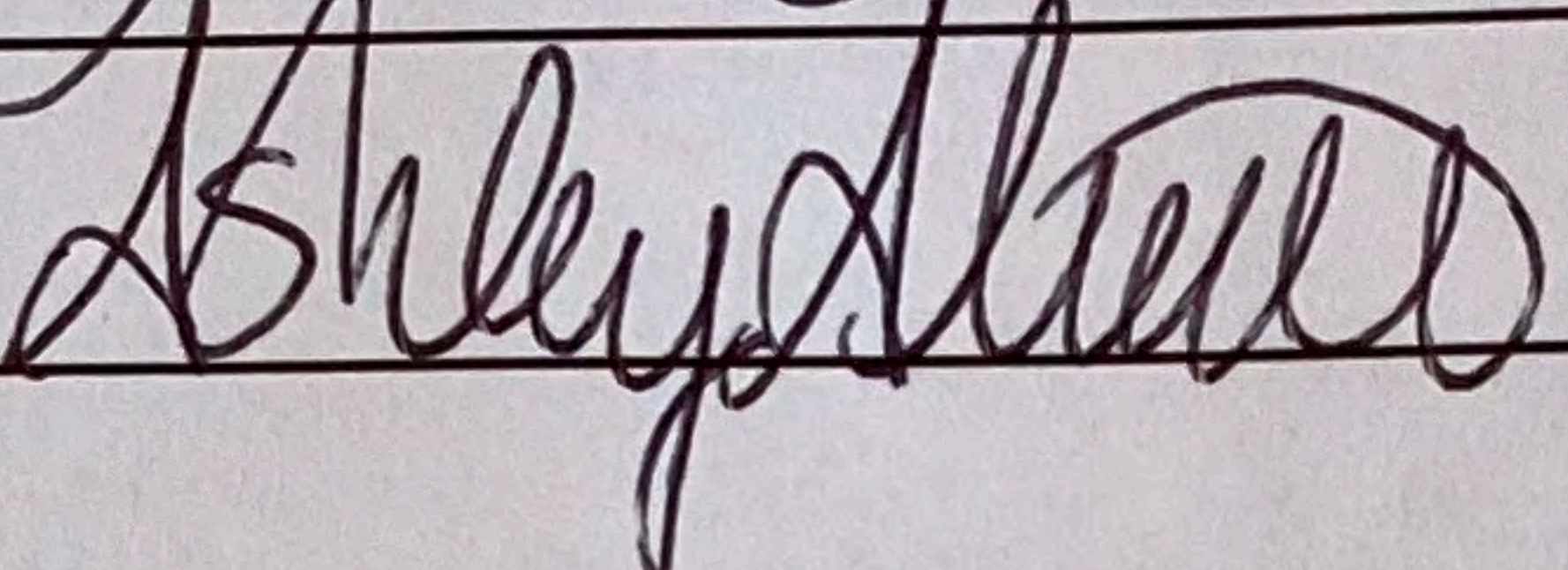
Please STOP the Permanent closure of the 3rd & Lindaro
Entrance/Exit to the Public Lot adjacent to Walgreens
Allow more time for public comment and integrated community feedback

Sign the Petition

	PRINT NAME	Signature	Email	Phone	Date
1	TANIA RODRIGUES			416	12-19-20
2	Ashley Lilly				19-20
3	Jamie Morrow				19-20
4	Shannon Beggs				19-20
5	Jamie Cole				12/19/20
6	DAVID CHURCHILL				19-20
7	Lisa Merigian				12/19/20
8	Elisa Wolf				12/19/20
9	LeJanae Pope				12/19/20
10	J. FARID SABIR				12/19/20
11	Francisco Santone P				12/19/20
12	Diane Payne				12/19/20
13	DAVID MEZGER				12/20/20
14	Tiffany Butler				12/20/20
15	Lisa Johnson				12/20/20
16	Alyssa Hasele				12/20/20
17	RON SIEGEL				12/20/20
18	Eric Huerta				12/20/20
19	Tassi McOwien				12/20/20
20	DAVID ROSS				12/20/20

**Please STOP the Permanent closure of the 3rd & Lindaro
Entrance/Exit to the Public Lot adjacent to Walgreens**
Allow more time for public comment and integrated community feedback

Sign the Petition

	PRINT NAME	Signature	Email	Phone	Date
1	Fardous Ahmed				12/19
2	Fassi McDwien				12/19
3	Ashley Alioto				12/19
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Negative Impact of Proposed Closure on Pedestrian & Motorist Safety

