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Good evening Council Members, my name is Avery Gannon and I am a junior at Colonel Zadok Magruder High School. I am here tonight to discuss the safety and security of our school. Could you imagine the parking lot of your workplace being a factor in whether or not you get to work on time? Or worrying about your safety on a daily basis? For us students of Magruder High School, this is our reality. An urgent change needs to be made to separate the parent pick up and drop off from the student parking lot. The combination of student parking and parent drop off and pick up leaves our parking lot in a mess.

One of the main issues regarding the parking lot is an overflow of traffic that occurs, which leads to student tardiness in the mornings. Another issue that needs to be addressed regarding the current student parking lot is the fact that parents feel the need to wait for their children in the line to leave the school. This blocks those who are ready to exit from leaving the parking lot. The third and final issue that needs to be addressed is the serious danger that is created by parents who turn out of the drop off line and into the student parking lot without using their turn signals.

Although it would be ideal to address all of the needs regarding the parking lot, the most important need concerns the safety of the students at our school. A change in the layout of the student parking lot or the separation of drop off and pick up from is our main concern. I have experienced the danger caused by our current parking lot a handful of times. To reflect on just one occurrence, one afternoon I walked out of school and made my way to my friends car using the crosswalks marked on the ground. As I continued along the crosswalk, a parent leaving the pick up line sped in front of me, turning without using their turn signal. Luckily, I was not

affected, but imagine the harm this would have caused if the car was just a bit closer. A change needs to be made to prevent students from being in harms way at Magruder High School. The last thing a parent wants to hear is that their child has been hit by a car before even leaving their school, a place that is supposed to provide safety. Keeping the students safe is a top priority that can only be truly accomplished with a separate area for parent drop off and pick up. Adding our school back to the full CIP would allow our school to make these necessary changes.

Thank you for your consideration,

Avery Gannon
Magruder High School Student