



# Town of Luray, Virginia

## Police Department

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**C.S. "Bow" Cook**  
Chief of Police

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Secretary

Since coming to the Luray Police Department, I have observed the ongoing traffic congestion problems for the past two years located on Luray Avenue and Second Street. This occurs mainly in the afternoon from 2:30 PM until 3:30 PM. During this time, both Luray Middle School and Luray Elementary School dismiss for the day. The cause of this congestion is the ongoing increase in the amount of parents who pick up their children from school and the increasing number of students who walk to school.

As of this date, the majority of the parents who pick up their children travel up Luray Avenue heading south. According to school data and me personally counting vehicles and students, approximately 40 students walk from the elementary school on the sidewalk and 65 students from the middle school for a total of 105 students. All of these students are walking to the direction of the intersection of First Street and Luray Avenue. Approximately half (52) of these students are picked up by parents parked on Luray Avenue and the remainder walk and cross First Street. At the exact same time, approximately 20 school busses are exiting the same intersection all within a 25 minute period. A Luray Police Officer is there to direct traffic at this intersection for the school year. Also during this same 25 minute window, there are approximately 95 cars traveling up Luray Avenue some of which get there starting at 1:30 PM and continuing up to 3:25 PM. The 95 cars are at a standstill from the turn circle behind Luray Elementary which back up out onto Luray Avenue and continues backing up all the way down to the front of Luray Middle.

There is a major traffic hazard for vehicles making a left hand turn onto Luray Avenue from Second Street after picking up their child. The sight view is blocked due to vehicles backed up on Luray Avenue. Also there has been reported incidents where students walking have almost been struck by vehicles.

On 10/19/16, I along with three other Luray Police Officers and the assistance of the Luray Town maintenance crew conducted a trial run making Second Street a one-way street. This consisted of doubling the approximately 95 cars up on Second Street that were waiting to pick up their child. A barricade was then placed in the circle of Second Street forcing the vehicles to exit up 4th Avenue and then exiting from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets. The results of this experiment alleviated the traffic backed up on Luray Avenue and eliminated the pedestrian and traffic hazards at the intersection of First Street and Luray Avenue. I spoke with almost every parent as well as school personnel and bus drivers and all had nothing but a positive response and thought it made the heavy amount of traffic flow much safer.

I request that the Luray Town Council take the appropriate action and consider making a turning lane off of Luray Avenue and making Second Street a One-Way Street. This will not only help the current situation but also in the future due to the continuing increase in the number of students who walk or are picked up by personal vehicles.

Chief C.S. Bow Cook