



# Lake Wales Police Department

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## Memorandum

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Commission  
**From:** David Black, Deputy Chief of Police  
**Via:** James Slaton, City Manager  
Chris Velasquez, Chief of Police  
**Date:** August 9, 2021  
**Subject:** Bok Academy North – Seminole Avenue Temporary Road Closure  
**Synopsis:** The City Commission will consider a request to allow the staff of Bok Academy North to restrict thru traffic on Seminole Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street on school days.

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### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Commission consider taking the following action:

1. Approve the temporary restriction of traffic flow on Seminole Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street during the prescribed times to "Local Traffic Only." School staff will use signage and three cones at each end of Seminole Avenue to accomplish this.
  - School hours are 9:00am – 3:50pm (Early release days end at 1:30pm).
  - Road restriction times should be 8:30 am – 4:20 pm (2:00pm on early release days).
  - School staff will place and remove the cones daily.

### BACKGROUND

Bok Academy North is located on both sides of Seminole Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Lake Wales. Students must cross Seminole Avenue throughout the day in order to access different parts of the campus during school. Depending on the time of day and circumstances, these students cross Seminole Avenue individually and in groups, presenting a traffic safety concern. The school administration has contacted five residents and one apartment owner that this closure would affect. The police department has also spoken with residents and property owners affected by this recommendation. There is a consensus from the residents and property owners that restricting traffic on Seminole Avenue between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Street would be acceptable during school hours on schools days. These stakeholders, along with their visitors and service providers to the area would not be restricted throughout the day. This temporary road restriction does not affect emergency vehicles and leaves ample room for them to travel or park if necessary. Bok Academy North has agreed to place cones out each day to facilitate this restriction during school hours.

#### OTHER OPTIONS

Do not approve the temporary road restriction.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

There will be no fiscal impact on the City of Lake Wales.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Map of intersection and recommended temporary road restriction.