

# ***Results of Saint Mary's CHS Community Survey***

**A Snapshot of Community Opinion  
Taken on October 1, 2005**

***Prepared by MIG, Inc.***

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### **Purpose**

In preparation for the development of a master plan for Saint Mary's College High School, MIG conducted a survey of the neighboring community. The purpose of the survey was to get a "snapshot" of neighbor opinions regarding the school. MIG was interested in learning community perceptions about Saint Mary's. Over the past few years, the school has directed resources toward managing issues such as such as traffic, parking, litter and noise. The survey was designed to identify which issues were of greatest concern to our neighbors and to collect feedback on neighbor perceptions about how they were being addressed by Saint Mary's. The information collected helped to serve as a starting point for these topics as Saint Mary's begins its master planning process with the community.

### **Methodology**

The neighborhood survey was designed to be distributed, completed and returned on the same day. The methodology was chosen because surveys distributed in person tend to have a higher response rate than mail back surveys and can be completed within a shorter time period. MIG wanted to have some information about community perceptions to help prepare for the master planning process. The survey contained eleven questions and included an optional section with questions regarding the characteristics of the household responding.

On Saturday, October 1, 2005, a five-person team from MIG visited approximately 230 residences. Saint Mary's provided MIG with a list of addresses; no resident names were provided. The address list included residences within at least 300 feet from the school, plus some additional nearby addresses of residents who have expressed interest in being kept informed about school activities. The streets surveyed included all or portions of: Ordway, Posen, Ventura, West Place, Beverly, Carlotta, Monterey, Hopkins Court, Acton and Albina Avenue. Residents on the address list had been sent a letter from Saint Mary's in mid-September, which informed residents that Saint Mary's was developing a master plan for the school. The letter also provided information about two upcoming community meetings and contained a brief mention of the survey.

Surveyors visited residences and requested that an adult from the household complete the survey. Residents had the option of providing their response on the spot or completing it sometime before 4 pm that day. The resident could either leave it outside their door in a designated location or return it to the surveyor who would be returning that afternoon at about 4 pm. Surveyors visited each residence at least once and logged the results of the visit. The surveyors returned to homes where it appeared the residents may have returned since they last came to the door. In some cases, surveys were left in anticipation of the resident's return. MIG returned to the residences to collect the surveys and stayed in the neighborhood until 6 pm.

A total of 230 residences were visited and 82 completed surveys were collected. No late surveys were received or accepted. A contact number was provided in case recipients had any questions about the survey and only two phone calls were received.

# Summary of Survey Results

MIG received 82 completed surveys, but not all respondents answered every question. Where possible, we have provided an answer on a percentage basis. Otherwise, we have indicated the number of responses received.

## Relationship or Affiliation with Saint Mary's

- 81% of the respondents indicated their household had no relationship or affiliation with Saint Mary's.
- 24% indicated they had attended an event at Saint Mary's in the last five years. Most described themselves as not having a relationship or affiliation with Saint Mary's. Athletic and team events was the most popular response.
- When asked to describe the type of impact they believe Saint Mary's has had on their neighborhood, neighbors responded:

Very positive impact	14.65 %
Somewhat positive impact	17.10 %
No impact	14.65 %
Somewhat negative impact	40.20 %
Very negative impact	13.40 %

## Your Neighborhood and Saint Mary's

- Neighbors considered Saint Mary's to be:

A strong asset to the neighborhood	13.58%
Generally positive asset to the neighborhood	20.98%
A neutral presence in the neighborhood	17.28%
A minor source of concern in the neighborhood	25.92%
A significant source of concern in the neighborhood	22.22%

- When asked to identify their most important concerns in rank order, 73 people responded. Traffic was considered the most important topic by 40. Parking and noise shared the second place ranking, with eleven respondents each giving it a top rating. Less than half of the respondents provided rankings for more than three topics.
- When asked to rate on a scale of 1-4 how well Saint Mary's was doing in six areas, seventy-three neighbors provided responses. Saint Mary's received good or excellent ratings from the majority for informing neighbors about scheduled events and activities and maintaining

the landscaping of the campus. The school's efforts to manage traffic and parking and to buffer surrounding properties from noise were rated poor to fair by the majority.

	Topic	1 Poor	2 Fair	3 Good	4 Excellent
A	Managing traffic	16	24	21	8
B	Managing parking	7	28	22	11
C	Informing neighbors about scheduled events and activities	4	14	24	30
D	Maintaining the landscaping of campus perimeter	8	15	28	15
E	Buffering neighboring properties from noise	22	28	11	7
F	Picking up litter around the campus perimeter.	7	21	22	10

- Eighty-five percent of the respondents were aware that Saint Mary's was preparing a master plan.
- About 35% of the respondents indicated they were likely to attend the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Similarly, about 35% indicated they would attend the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please note: while the percentages were similar, the same individuals would not necessarily attend both meetings.
- As an alternative to or in addition to public meetings, respondents indicated they would like to participate in the master plan process through the following methods. Since a respondent could identify more than one method, the number of responses for each method has been provided.

Written Surveys	39
Participate in small group discussions with school officials/neighbors	25
Host small group discussions with school officials/neighbors	4
Comment by phone or fax	4
Comment by e-mail	13

- Respondents indicated their interest in Saint Mary's helping the neighborhood address the issues listed below. Since a respondent could identify more than one method, the number of responses for each method has been provided.

Disaster preparedness	37
Community beautification	23
Neighborhood watch/Safety patrols	28

- Respondents indicated their level of agreement with the following statement:  
“I believe that Saint Mary’s CHS is helping to meet our community’s goals to provide a quality education for high school youth.”

69 respondents indicated their level of agreement to be moderate to full, with 26 respondents in full agreement

8 statements indicated their level of agreement to be less than moderate to “do not agree”.

- Respondents indicated their level of agreement with the following statement: “As a neighbor of Saint Mary’s, I accept that I will periodically be impacted by school activities.”

72 respondents indicated their level of agreement to be moderate to full, with 37 respondents in full agreement

5 respondents indicated their level of agreement to be less than moderate to “do not agree”.

### ***Optional Questions***

93% of the respondents provided answers to at least one of the optional questions.

- 48 respondents (62%) had lived at that address for more than 10 years
- 14 respondents (18%) had lived at that address for three years or less
- 8 respondents (10%) had lived at that address for 7-10 years
- 7 respondents (9%) had lived at that address for 4-6 years

Most respondent households had two adults.

- 5 respondents were between age 18-34
- 19 respondents were between age 35-54
- 36 respondents were between age 45-64
- 14 respondents were age 65 or older

Of the respondents who indicated they had school age children in the house:

- 8 respondents indicated their children attended Albany/Berkeley public schools
- 2 respondents indicated their children attended local private or independent schools (not Saint Mary’s)
- 1 respondent indicated the child attended school at home