POULSBO POLICE
STREET BEAT
EDITION 4

We recently received a question from a community member about the legality placing those “Slow Down - Kids Playing” in the street or in a way that blocks sidewalks. It’s a great question, and it gives us a chance to clear up some confusion.

HERE’S THE BOTTOM LINE:

While those signs are well-intentioned and aimed at promoting safety, placing any objects in the public roadway is not legal, even if it’s just a small plastic sign. Roads are for the safe passage of vehicles, and anything that obstructs traffic, even momentarily, can create a hazard. The same goes for sidewalks. Anything that impedes pedestrian access can become an issue, especially for individuals with mobility challenges.

We absolutely understand and appreciate the desire to keep kids safe, especially in neighborhoods where play spills outside.

THE BEST WAY TO DO THAT?

1. Follow posted speed limits when driving.
2. Use yard signs placed entirely on private property, not in the street or sidewalk.
3. Teach kids to play safely away from busy streets and to be aware of traffic.
4. Consider connecting with the city about long-term traffic calming solutions for your neighborhood.

If you see something that looks dangerous or creates a traffic hazard, give us a call at **9-1-1** and we’ll take a look.

Got a question you’d like us to answer in a future Street Beat? Send it to streetbeat@cityofpoulsbo.com. We’re listening! Stay safe, Poulsbo!

Released 04/18/2025