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Some in Chesterfield area irritated

Presidential entourage disruptive to some

BY ZACHARY REID
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If President Barack Obama is looking for love for his jobs plan, he's headed to the wrong neighborhood this afternoon.

His visit to Chesterfield County Fire Station 9 was met by a mix of resignation and indignation by people who work and live nearby.

"He's the president, so I guess he can go wherever he wants," Abe Simon, a resident of the area just off Midlothian Turnpike and Buford Road, said as he dropped off his wife, Ruth, for a hair appointment. "But I don't mind telling you, I didn't vote for him before, and I won't vote for him next time. I think he's on a different wavelength from average Americans."

The visit to the fire station is closed to the public, but it has led to a flurry of activity in the neighborhood, from security sweeps to impromptu cleaning sprints to the delivery of temporary seating.

The president's trip also will be noticeable on the route between his stop in Hampton and the fire station in Chesterfield. As happens when a president hops on a bus, traffic disappears: The state will close access to the route long enough for the motorcade to pass. The state will also interrupt the broadcast of traffic cameras along the route as the bus passes.

Inside the Hair on Broadway salon, which is in a strip of shops in front of the fire station, owner

Traffic issues for Obama Chesterfield stop

Chesterfield County police are asking motorists to avoid several area roads — and potentially big delays — today from noon to 5 p.m. during President Barack Obama's visit. Police spokeswoman Elizabeth Caroon said motorists should avoid the following roads:

- ◆ Buford Road.
- ◆ North Providence Road.
- ◆ Midlothian Turnpike from Chippenham Parkway to Powhite Parkway.

Motorists who use the area should expect roadblocks and significant delays, Caroon said.

Mary McCullough was visibly agitated by the whole process.

"We can't get anyone to answer any questions," she said between phone calls. "I don't know if our customers will have access to us, so I'm cancelling all

of the appointments for tomorrow."

At a State Farm Insurance office a few doors down — an office that parks an antique fire engine in a lot along Buford Road — agent Brooks Baltich refused to answer any

questions.

The mood was a little more festive across Buford Court at the Food Lion.

Manager Jim Fergusor said that it had been a hectic few days for his staff but that it should all work out well.

"We're excited," he said "He's not coming here, but the close proximity, maybe we can get a glimpse of the motorcade coming through."

While he wasn't expecting Obama himself to stop in — "That would be cool, though," he said — he was looking forward to seeing a new crowd near his store.

"It does give us a good bit of visibility," he said.

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