

27 January, 2025

The Honorable Councilmember Matt Frumin
Ward 3 Councilmember
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Frumin,

As you know, the Cleveland Park Community Association (CPCA) has long been concerned with both pedestrian and traffic safety in our neighborhood.

In particular, our members have expressed deep concern about the threats to pedestrians due to the flawed traffic design of the 34th Street - Reno Road corridor through Cleveland Park, which is characterized by steep changes in terrain, several blind intersections, and an inconsistent traffic calming pattern. Traffic routinely exceeds marked speed limits, and vehicles frequently fail to stop for pedestrians - including children - making tragedy seems inevitable.

From Tilden to Cathedral, 34th St/Reno Road is dotted with schools and parks, and must be crossed by children and families at numerous points. This is a neighborhood street that should be as safe for our pedestrians, strollers, and bicycles as it is for Maryland commuters seeking an alternative route into town.

Together with other neighborhood organizations, we have long appealed for DDOT to take a holistic approach to traffic management and pedestrian safety along this corridor.

Today I write to specifically and urgently amplify the concerns of a large group of parents, children, and other stakeholders about the dangerous and confusing traffic patterns around the John Eaton Elementary School, at the corner of Macomb and 34th Streets. Like these other neighborhood stakeholders, the CPCA Board is of the view that the traffic situation around John Eaton is an unacceptable, unsustainable danger to Cleveland Park children and families.

There are a number of factors that make the stretch of 34th Street NW between Ordway and Lowell Streets particularly treacherous. The pedestrian crosswalk at Ordway is virtually blind to



drivers coming in either direction – and particularly those accelerating southbound, uphill from Porter Street. Traffic on 34th does not stop at the intersection with Newark Street, which is a busy crosswalk for families walking to and from both John Eaton and the NCRC preschool. And approaching pedestrians are obscured to drivers turning *onto* 34th *from* Newark Street.

I would be happy to organize for you and your staff to walk this stretch with neighborhood families to gain a firsthand view and hear their concerns directly.

These intersections are the sites of frequent vehicular accidents. However, data cannot capture the frequent close calls; parents yanking their children out of crosswalks and parents struggling to cross with strollers despite oncoming traffic.

The time to act is now. So, on behalf of the CPCA Board, I urge you to escalate this matter with Councilmember Allen, as Chairperson for the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, with the Mayor's Office, and with DDOT leadership.

Specifically, we request that DDOT:

- Undertakes an expedited and targeted traffic safety study of the intersections noted above;
- Implements both interim and permanent measures to ensure slower, safer traffic through this stretch of neighborhood; and,
- Conducts a comprehensive, holistic study of the entire 34th Street/Reno Road corridor between Tilden and Cathedral Streets NW as we have previously been assured they would.

CPCA is eager and willing to facilitate whatever community engagement is required, both with your office and with DDOT. Please advise how best we can help to facilitate rapid action on this urgent issue. Thank you for your attention and engagement.

Sincerely,

Barr Weiner

President
Cleveland Park Community Association
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