



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

October 25, 2021

Mr. Everett Lott
Acting Director
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
Everett.Lott@dc.gov

RE: Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety at the Intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and S Street NW

Dear Director Lott:

At its regular meeting on October 13, 2021, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0):

WHEREAS, on Friday, September 24, four year old Nathan Ballard-Means was struck by a SUV that failed to stop at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and S Street NW, while Nathan crossed on his balance bike in the crosswalk with his mother after stopping to check that the intersection was clear,

WHEREAS, while Nathan’s injuries were minor, two other children – four year old Zy’aire Joshua and five year old Allison Hart – have lost their lives while crossing streets in their neighborhoods,

WHEREAS, a father and his six and eight year old daughters were struck and suffered serious injuries while crossing Mississippi Avenue and Wheeler Road SE as part of “Walk to School Day” on Wednesday October 6,

WHEREAS, as of October 1, thirty people have died in traffic-related collisions, including bicycle and pedestrian safety advocate Jim Pagels,

WHEREAS, Code for DC estimates that the number of collisions between vehicles and pedestrians or bicyclists is underreported by 30%,

WHEREAS, Vision Zero DC is an action plan to achieve zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2024, including improvements to pedestrian and non-vehicle infrastructure,

WHEREAS, DC Auditor Kathy Patterson is now undertaking a complete audit of how the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is implementing Vision Zero policies, including questions of equitable allocation of resources,

WHEREAS, the FY 2022 budget approved by the DC Council includes a mechanism to ensure full funding to implement Vision Zero,

WHEREAS, Councilmember Mary Cheh, Chair of the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment, together with Councilmember Charles Allen, have urged the Bowser Administration to implement Vision Zero with urgency to ensure pedestrian safety,

WHEREAS, the New Hampshire Avenue and S Street NW intersection has been previously identified as a hazardous intersection meriting immediate safety improvements by an independent consultant assessing Safe Routes to School for Ross Elementary School located in the 1700 block of R Street NW,

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2021, representatives from DDOT and the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services met with ANC 2B Commissioner Meg Roggensack, as well as Nathan's parents John Means and Rebecca Ballard, to hear about the accident and to discuss possible responses to make this intersection safer for pedestrians and other non-vehicle users, and

WHEREAS, DDOT pledged to install double-backed stop signs on all approaches to this intersection (service request #21-00430505) and new markings for curb extensions and high visibility crosswalks at this intersection, including adjacent 17th Street NW (service request #21-00430532).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to prioritize these service requests for immediate action in view of the longstanding concerns raised at this intersection and the urgent safety issues presented to residents, including children using this intersection to and from nearby Ross Elementary School.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to take immediate action on improving the intersections, crosswalks, and signage identified in the "Ross Elementary School Action Plan" from the DC Safe Routes to School 2020 review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to install curb extensions at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and S Street NW, a traffic calming measure that slows traffic by narrowing an intersection and reduces the amount of roadway pedestrians must cross.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to consider additional safety measures at this intersection, including but not limited to automatic traffic enforcement, raised crosswalks, additional signage, and/or a fully protected intersection where pedestrians and cyclists are completely separated from vehicles by concrete medians or other hard infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to identify threats to pedestrians and cyclists along the corridors leading to New Hampshire Avenue and S Street NW as well as the adjacent intersections such as New Hampshire Avenue, 17th Street, and Swann Street NW and 17th Street and S Street NW and implement infrastructure improvements in consultation with the neighborhood. These intersections surround the popular S Street Dog Park, a major pedestrian attractant and neighborhood amenity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges DDOT to take measures to decrease illegal parking and reduce impacts from temporary use of public space such as construction vehicles and materials around the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and S Street NW and the S Street Dog Park as illegal parking and construction contribute to dangerous pedestrian conditions such as blocking curb ramps, blocking intersections, and reducing line of sight for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

Commissioners Matthew Holden (2B08@anc.dc.gov) and Mo Pasternak (2B04@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Holden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Holden
Chair