



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

3265 S Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007

(202) 724-7098 • anc2e@dc.gov

June 8, 2021

Mr. Soumya Dey
Associate Director, Traffic Operations and Safety Division
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
soumya.dey@dc.gov

RE: Requesting a Safety Assessment at the Intersection of 35th Street and Prospect Street NW

Dear Mr. Dey,

On June 1, 2021 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

Over the last five years, ANC 2E has received many complaints regarding pedestrian safety at the intersection of Prospect Street NW and 35th Street NW. This intersection is particularly hazardous because of a unique combination of circumstances: it is located right in a residential neighborhood in front of a dormitory with an unusually high number of pedestrians walking on these quiet residential blocks plus it serves as a cut through for drivers and commuters who often use this route to exit Georgetown via Canal Road NW in order to avoid traffic on the more typical arterials. One ANC commissioner recently referred to it as a “deadly intersection”. While that description may sound hyperbolic, it is worth noting that a constituent who lives at the intersection has witnessed, herself, five pedestrians – including students – hit by cars plus a number of near misses. Drivers frequently do not stop at this intersection and this scenario of blowing through stop signs becomes even more dangerous because drivers often fail to notice pedestrians crossing from the south side of Prospect Street NW to the north side on the east side of the intersection. Many neighbors are very in tune to this as they do not allow their children to cross at the intersection at all for fear of needing to jump out of the way of cars coming through the intersection.

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Jenny Mitchell, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

As a result of these dangerous conditions, ANC 2E has worked with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) on two ways to address the concerns:

1. MPD periodically stations a patrol officer at the corner to issue tickets for running the stop sign. While this is certainly helpful when MPD is able to spare an officer to ticket people, this is surely not a sustainable solution.
2. A few years ago DDOT visited the site to investigate if a speed bump could be installed. Unfortunately, it was determined that there was infrastructure within the intersection which precluded DDOT from installing a speed bump.

ANC 2E requests that DDOT returns to the site to determine what other mechanisms could be used to make this intersection safer for pedestrians and be in line with Mayor Bowser's Vision Zero initiative. While the ANC certainly does not have a full understanding of DDOT's toolbox, and the ANC does request that DDOT thinks creatively about addressing this solution, some initial ideas that come to mind include a more visible ladder crosswalk at the intersection as was recently installed at the intersection of 30th Street and Q Street NW, signage reminding people to stop for pedestrians, and support for installing a stop sign camera.

Commissioners Lisa Palmer (2E05@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E