



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.org

Resolution Regarding the Safety of School Children on a stretch of Chesapeake Street NW in the Wilson/Deal Vicinity

Whereas, Mayor Bowser and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) have committed to reducing pedestrian fatalities in the District to zero by the year 2024¹ under a plan commonly referred to as Vision Zero, and

Whereas, the District's Vision Zero plan executive summary² lists creating safe streets, protecting vulnerable users and preventing dangerous driving as three of the four pillars of its plan, and

Whereas, other cities and regions that have committed to the Vision Zero philosophy typically rely on a combination of infrastructure improvements, enforcement and education to achieve zero pedestrian fatalities, and

Whereas, the Tenleytown neighborhood and the area around Ft Reno Park attract large numbers of students every day including those attending Wilson High School, Deal Middle School, Janney and Murch Elementary Schools, the Communikids Pre-School and American University and many of those students do some or all of their journey on foot and the District government as well as the ANC encourages pedestrian travel and the use of public transportation and bicycling for those students and all others who live in and visit our neighborhood, and

Whereas, Fort Reno Park is a heavily used park year around and every summer hosts the Fort Reno concert series which is hosted on Chesapeake Street across from Wilson High School and Wilson High School also uses Fort Reno Park on a daily basis for many of its school athletic programs, and

Whereas, the five block area surrounding Wilson High School and Deal Middle School is heavily traversed by students during the school year, especially during the hours of 8 AM to 9AM and 3 PM to 4 PM, and

Whereas, ANC3E has informally and repeatedly asked for DDOT to address the crosswalk on the 3900 Block of Chesapeake St NW that is used by schoolchildren walking to and from Deal Middle School and the bus stop on the north side of Chesapeake to the east of 40th St, but DDOT has not responded other than repainting the crosswalk which had eroded to the point of invisibility, and

¹ <http://www.dcvisionzero.com/action-plan.html>

² <http://www.dcvisionzero.com/assets/dc-vision-zero-executive-summary.pdf>

Whereas, during the morning hours many drivers use Chesapeake St as a shortcut to gain access to Reno Road and points east, and

Whereas, the intersection at Chesapeake and 40th street has no stop sign to calm traffic going east to west, and

Whereas, the intersection at Chesapeake and 41st has no stop sign for northbound traffic on 41st Street to prevent traffic coming off of Wisconsin Ave from speeding into the neighborhood and/or making an unimpeded right turn onto Chesapeake, and

Whereas, many children stay after school for athletics and clubs, and walk home after dark, and

Whereas, lighting could be improved along the stretch of Chesapeake from 41st Street to Nebraska Avenue,

Whereas, these conditions s put pedestrians at risk, especially to schoolchildren walking to and from school, and

Whereas, underscoring the dangers posed by the foregoing conditions, after this resolution was placed on the ANC agenda, but before the ANC meeting at which it was to be heard, a Commissioner's daughter was hit by a car at Chesapeake, 41st, and Belt Road walking home from Wilson High School after track practice, and

Whereas, the Commissioner's daughter was thrown onto the hood and windshield of the vehicle that hit her, escaping almost by miracle without serious injuries, and

Whereas, DDOT and MPD should not wait until another child is struck, perhaps this time not escaping without serious injury, before acting to make our streets safe for schoolchildren to traverse;

Now therefore be it resolved, ANC 3E urges DDOT to:

- Study the feasibility of installing stop signs at 40th Street and Chesapeake, making it a three way stop intersection,
- Study the feasibility of installing a stop sign at 41st Street and Chesapeake going northbound on 41st.
- Study the following for making the crosswalk at Chesapeake St. and Belt Road safer and more functional:
 - Remove the parking space adjacent SE of the crosswalk in order to allow the crosswalk to be made perpendicular to the road
 - Remove the parking space on the NW side of the crosswalk to allow better vehicular sightlines
 - Install a mid-lane crosswalk sign to highlight the crosswalk
 - Install a raised crosswalk
- Add aggressive and frequent enforcement of stop sign and crosswalk compliance to this portion of Chesapeake including possibly adding traffic cameras
- Report back the agency findings to the ANC March 4th, 2016

Be it further resolved, ANC 3E believes that in a pedestrian heavy location with so many vulnerable users it is imperative that DDOT move quickly and pro-actively to make the streets and intersections safer for all users and urges DDOT to make safety improvements in this area without further delay.

The resolution passed by a vote of 5-0-0 at a properly noticed meeting held on January 14, 2016, at which a quorum was present, with Commissioners Bender, McHugh, Hall, Quinn, and Wallace in attendance.

ANC 3E

By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson