



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



January 19, 2023

Director Everett Lott
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Commander Tasha Bryant
First District
Metropolitan Police Department
101 M Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: ANC6A Support for traffic calming on the 900 Block of K St NE and request for information regarding the fatal crash on K Street NE

Dear Director Lott and Commander Bryant:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on January 12th, 2023 our Commission voted 7-0-0 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to support resident requests for traffic calming at 9th and K Street NE and to request more information about the response to the fatal crash that killed an ANC6A resident, Mr. Ralph Williams.

On November 25, 2022, the day after Thanksgiving, Ralph Williams was killed on K Street NE, in front of his home, where his car was rear-ended. Mr. Williams was pinned between his car and the car of the driver that rear-ended him, and died from his injuries. Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, Linda, his three children and his eight grandchildren. Our community has grieved alongside the Williams family, and we wish to offer our condolences again to Mr. Williams' family.

The MPD report indicated that Mr. Williams was hit in the middle of the day, around 1:30 pm. The crash occurred a few feet away from an intersection where the driver should have been at a full stop. Eyewitnesses have told us that Mr. Williams' car was rear ended at a high enough speed to cause airbags to deploy on the car that crashed into him. Our view is that no driver

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on anc-6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

should be going so fast that they cannot stop for any object in front of them on a residential road – especially when that object is a person standing next to a car with lights on.

We request that MPD share all documentation of the crash response, and specifically let ANC 6A know what citations the driver received after rear-ending Mr. Williams’ car and killing Mr. Williams.

Since the time of the crash, the DDOT Vision Zero Team met with the ANC Transportation and Public Space committee on December 19, 2022. The community expressed shock at the time it was taking to install an illuminated stop sign or a stop sign camera, and the DDOT representatives there promised the immediate installation of an illuminated stop sign or stop sign camera. At the time of sending this letter, neither has been installed, and instead a temporary police camera from 10th and K Street NE was moved to 9th and K Street NE. While we appreciate the presence of a camera at the intersection, we urge DDOT to install a permanent solution immediately. That step alone, however, we do not view as sufficient to save lives.

Sadly, DDOT seems reluctant to put in speed humps and/or raised crosswalks, because of recent traffic counts showing heavy use of the road, but vertical traffic calming is exactly what is needed at this intersection. K Street NE is primarily a residential street and includes J.O. Wilson Elementary School in the 600 block of K Street; this section of K Street should not be so heavily used for through traffic. Our ANC has sent two letters to DDOT asking that West Virginia Avenue be made one way to reduce speeds and the amount of traffic flow on K Street NE, but we have received no response to those letters to date.²

In addition to our unanswered letters on West Virginia Avenue NE, almost a year before Mr. Williams was killed, on March 14, 2022, Commissioner Chatterjee, 6A01 submitted a new TSI (22-00115945) for 9th and K Street NE, that was resolved with “pedestrian safety improvement chevron marking,” at an intersection where more than paint and plastic is needed to slow drivers and encourage stopping. As noted in the TSI, this intersection is just two blocks from the elementary school that 6A01 is zoned for, J.O. Wilson Elementary School, and is a thoroughfare for children walking to school and home.

We request that DDOT implement interventions on four time scales:

² <https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-support-for-NOI-21-136-PSD.pdf>

https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-re_-_Support-for-traffic-calming-800-block-WV-NE-and-K-Street-N-E.pdf

<https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC6A-support-for-NOI-21-136-PSD.pdf>

- 1- Please immediately, within the next 3-6 weeks, install a stop sign camera at 9th and K Street NE, to encourage drivers to come to a full stop.**
- 2- Please install vertical traffic calming on K Street NE within the next 3-6 months, as soon as it is warm enough to do so.**
- 3- Please implement the pocket parks at 8th and K Street NE and 9th Street and Florida Avenue NE, with special attention to whether pedestrians and people on bicycles can access those spaces without being killed. The 30% design, unfortunately removed rather than added crosswalks, and we ask that this project include vertical traffic calming both on K Street NE, 9th Street NE, and West Virginia Avenue NE.**
- 4- Please share a plan with our ANC in 2023 for traffic calming measures that will be installed in the coming years for the area where high speeds are a large issue: on K Street NE from JO Wilson Elementary School to 10th Street NE, on West Virginia Avenue NE, and on 9th Street NE. This should include engineering the road to slow drivers by narrowing the width of the road with bike lanes, permanent bulb-outs, and any other interventions that will slow drivers and encourage stops at intersections.**

We are concerned to see that K Street NE is not on the list of prioritized TSIs for 2023. The TSIs that community members entered in November 2022, after Mr. Williams was killed, were all closed by DDOT last week without action and with the only explanation being that the new TSI system would be data led. A fatality should be an important data point in deciding what interventions are most urgent. Our commission urges immediate action at 9th and K Streets NE to prevent any other constituents from being killed.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of this Commission. I can be contacted at 6A04@anc.dc.gov and Commissioner Chatterjee can be contacted at 6A01@anc.dc.gov.

On behalf of the Commission,



Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A