

# Kitchener Elementary School PAC

1351 Gilmore Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V5C 4S8

April 12, 2018

City of Burnaby  
Public Safety Committee  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

Dear: Councillor P. Calendino, Chair  
Councillor S. Dhaliwal, Vice Chair

We are writing to you as parents from Kitchener Elementary School and regular attendees at the Kitchener Parent Advisory Council. We are hoping to find an acceptable plan and action to improve the traffic safety issues that have been ongoing at Kitchener Elementary for many years and that have been exacerbated due to the significant number of developments in the Willingdon Heights and Brentwood areas.

The streets surrounding our school, specifically Gilmore Avenue, have become increasingly dangerous for children and adults trying to cross at the central and northern crosswalks in order to get to and from school. Vehicles speed north and south on Gilmore, seemingly oblivious to the school zone, crosswalks and pedestrians around the school. We have had numerous close-calls even when adults are present with children in front of the school. We have been working with our Principal, Mrs. Deb Taylor, and have been in contact with two RCMP members who have come to help and observe at our school within the past year, Constable Aaron Cheng and Constable Jennifer Barker. Both officers have supported us by either patrolling the streets, doing speed checks, giving out warnings to drivers, and assisting students to cross Gilmore Avenue.

Approximately 30 of our Grade 6 and 7 Kitchener students have been trained to be crossing guards and are doing the best that they can, but in our opinion, they should not be responsible for patrolling the crosswalks without additional safety installments. As parents we have witnessed vehicles not stopping for the students after they have blown their whistles, waited, and extended their Stop signs. Vehicles have continued driving through the crosswalk even when they have been motioned to stop, and do not follow the 20 foot regulation set out by the City of Burnaby by-laws. When there are no crossing guards, vehicles routinely run through the crosswalk during and after school hours regardless of pedestrians trying to cross the street. It is a very dangerous stretch of Gilmore Avenue which students must cross if they are walking to and from school.

There have been presentations to the City over the years regarding the safety for our children around our school. The City did install cement barriers along Gilmore Avenue to block parents from dropping their children off in front of the school a number of years ago but that has not addressed the issue of vehicles speeding through the school zone and not stopping for people to cross the street at either of the crosswalks in front of Kitchener Elementary. There is a lack of lighting, pedestrian-controlled signals or adult crossing guards for this site. In the past, City representatives have come out to the school to speak to different parent groups about the street's safety and had determined that it wasn't that bad and that there had been no fatalities. No parent found this response acceptable, then or now, and have continued trying to address the issues.

In our opinion, the significant number of housing/commercial developments occurring in North Burnaby have led to an increase in vehicles travelling north and south on Gilmore Avenue, especially as the construction on and around Willingdon, Lougheed, and Gilmore has increased. The City has identified Gilmore Avenue as a "Major Collector Secondary" route with a traffic volume between 5,000 and 20,000 vehicles per day. As a road with a school along it, this is a huge amount of traffic that can pose a danger to our 300+ students. In addition, Douglas Road is planned to be closed off and traffic will be affected along Gilmore Avenue as part of our neighborhood's development plan. We have struggled to find documents, reviews and plans that would indicate how the changes in traffic and the developments will be addressing the road safety and improvements in this area of Burnaby, even though there are significant references to the Brentwood Town Center plan and the Dawson area plan regarding increased density and infrastructure.

We recently spoke to the new Centre Supervisor at Willingdon Community Centre, Mr. Lucas Bjerke, about after-school programs offered for our children at the Centre. The PAC members raised the issue about helping us convey to City staff the unsafe crosswalks that our children would need to use to participate in programs at the Centre. He mentioned he had noticed how fast vehicles drove on Gilmore and how precarious the crosswalk was in front of the school. Mr. Bjerke said that he would raise the issue with Mr. Ernie Jensen, City of Burnaby Traffic Technician, and see if there was something he could find out or have the City of Burnaby follow up on.

We are looking for your help in re-assessing the safety in front of Kitchener Elementary school and are interested in some of the following improvements:

- the installation of backlit overhead signs and flashing amber lights activated by pedestrians at our two crosswalks across Gilmore Avenue
- the installation of a permanent flashing sign that indicates the driver's speed showing both north and south on Gilmore Avenue such as radar speed indicator signs
- the installation of pedestrian controlled flashing lights within the cement of the crosswalk or along the crossing zone to highlight the area better when a pedestrian is crossing such as road guidance systems
- the installation of solar powered blinker lights or solar rapid-flashing beacons to draw attention to pedestrians in the crosswalk
- the installation of flashing beacons at crosswalks atop crosswalk signage
- the installation of permanent in-street crosswalk signs that would not impede emergency vehicle traffic

We are currently applying to the Burnaby School District for adult crossing guards to be assigned at our intersections to assist with student safety.

We would also be interested in increased police patrols, including the enforcement of speeding and driving regulations. Our children and families deserve to feel safe in our neighborhood during and after construction along Gilmore Avenue and in our neighborhoods.

We have discussed this letter with Mrs. Deb Taylor, our school Principal, and with our school PAC members. We are sending send a copy of this letter to the Burnaby School District asking them to also coordinate a review of the safety issues for our 300+ students at Kitchener Elementary. Additionally, we will send a request to our MLA, Janet Routledge, asking her to assist us in making our school zones safer for our children. We have included some of the information from the City of Burnaby and Burnaby School District following this letter.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read our concerns. We look forward to working with the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby School District to make our school, and our children, safer.

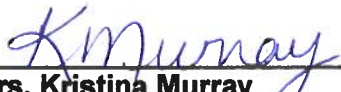
Respectfully,



**Mrs. Tracey Mayede-Lok**  
Chair, Kitchener Elementary PAC



**Mrs. Janice Chiem**  
Treasurer, Kitchener Elementary PAC



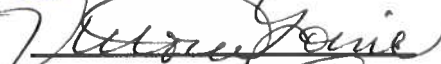
**Mrs. Kristina Murray**  
Secretary, Kitchener Elementary PAC

**Kitchener Elementary PAC, Members-at Large:**


Name: Kristy Dellebuur O'Connor

Signature: 

Name: Victoria Louie

Signature: 

Name: Nicole Levis

Signature: 

Name: Sherri Boljuncic

Signature: 

Name: Paola Arletto

Signature: 

Name: America Nunez

Signature: 

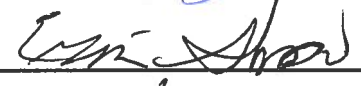
Name: Kristen Valente

Signature: 

Name: Vanessa Sherer

Signature: 

Name: Erin Shaw

Signature: 

Name: MELODY YU

Signature: 

cc: City of Burnaby      Dave Critchley, Director Public Safety and Community Services  
Doug Louie, Director Engineering L. Gous  
Margaret Manifold, Planning & Building Department  
Burnaby School District      Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent of Schools  
Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer  
Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent  
Meiling Chia, Trustee Liaison  
Janet Routledge, MLA for Burnaby North  
Deb Taylor, Kitchener Elementary, Principal  
Chris Phillips, Kitchener Elementary, Head Teacher  
Jennifer Mezei, Burnaby DPAC

## **Supporting References:**

### **2017 City Transportation Review Document**

<https://eagenda.burnaby.ca/sirepub/cache/2/hqsfu03mlwlu51dea3er5dii/8937402172018101833413.PDF>

Major streets and highways, such as Willingdon Avenue, Hastings Street, Lougheed Highway, and the Trans-Canada Highway, have provided connections across the City. Gilmore Ave is identified in the City of Burnaby Engineering Department Design Criteria Manual. The city map (Burnaby Major Road Network figure 6.4) and defined by the Engineering Department's Design Criteria Manual (year):

- Major Collector Secondary – means a highway whose primary function is to carry intermunicipal and local traffic between major industrial, commercial and high density residential areas and major activity centres in the City, with direct access generally not permitted or restricted to major traffic generating land uses. The design traffic volume is 5,000 to 20,000 vehicles per day (see Figure 6.5).

<https://www.burnaby.ca/Assets/Major+Road+Network.pdf>

### **When Are Traffic Signals Used?**

<https://www.burnaby.ca/City-Services/Roads---Traffic/Maintenance/Street-Lights---Traffic-Signals.html>

Traffic signals are used at intersections where traffic volumes have increased beyond the ability of lesser controls, such as four-way stops, to safely manage vehicle right-of-way.

### **About Traffic Control**

<https://www.burnaby.ca/Assets/city+services/planning/Transportation+Plan+Update/Fact+Sheet+Hot+Topics.pdf>

Traffic control devices are signs or signals used to inform, guide, and control traffic, including drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. Traffic control signs include stop signs, yield signs, railway crossing signs, and crosswalk signs. Traffic control signals include regular traffic signals, pedestrian activated signals, railway crossing signals, and flashing yellow beacons at crosswalks.

<b><u>Type of Traffic Control Devices</u></b>	<b><u># Of Locations</u></b>
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Intersections	2,488
Traffic Signals	253
Pedestrian Signals	65
Pedestrian Crosswalks with	12
Pedestrian Activated Flashers	

### **Burnaby School Board Policy 3.30.00: Traffic and Pedestrian Safety for Students**

(Adopted 1982-02) <http://burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/33000.pdf>

The Board shall provide for Traffic safety for all schools in the district, and, where it is deemed necessary, student safety patrols or adult crossing guards. It shall also provide in all schools basic traffic safety education programs for students.

## **2.4 Traffic Enforcement and Pedestrian Safety in School Zones**

**Action:** *Work with the RCMP and Speed Watch program to promote increased traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety in school zones.*

The Speed Watch program is a partnership between community policing volunteers, the Burnaby RCMP and ICBC that aims to reduce speed-related crashes. Speed Watch volunteers use portable radar and an electronic display board to monitor speeds in neighbourhoods, particularly around schools and playgrounds. The display boards tell drivers the speed at which they are travelling as they pass. Experience has shown that drivers who are exceeding the speed limit slow down when they see a speed-reader board.

*To: Public Safety Committee  
From: Director Public Safety and Community Services  
Re: Public Safety Committee 2017-19 Workplan  
2017 September 21 ..... Page 4*

In 2016, Burnaby RCMP Community Policing volunteers provided over 86,000 hours of service delivering high visibility Speed Watch deployments throughout Burnaby. In support of these operations, ICBC provided the Community Police Offices with an additional Speed Watch reader board. The Community Police Offices will also be assuming the use of an additional volunteer vehicle to increase volunteer capacity.

The Burnaby RCMP Community Programs and Traffic Enforcement sections have also conducted several outreach and educational events at different locations throughout the community over the last two years.