

**From:** Brandee Barker

**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2021 2:59 PM

**To:** Mayor; Calendino, Attilio Pietro; Dhaliwal, Satvinder; Gu, Alison; Hillman, Mike; Johnston, Dan; Jordan, Colleen; Wang, James

**Cc:** Andrew Barker

**Subject:** Montecito Neighbours Need Action!

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Hello,

My name is Brandee Barker, and I am writing to represent myself, my husband, our children, and our community.

As you're undoubtedly aware, two of the citizens of your city, of our community, are dead in the wake of yet another accident involving cars on our residential streets. This occurred in the afternoon, right outside the elementary school my children attend, on the street people frequent to commute and enjoy walks. This area is home to several parks, a golf course, and several housing complexes designated for seniors.

[I note that in this article](#), you put the onus on the citizens and community to manage this, essentially disregarding the need for safety and a desire to meet the needs of your constituents, and attempting to absolve the city from any responsibility.

Specifically, you note that the best way to manage excessive speeds and unnecessary deaths is to tax the RCMP with non-emergency phone calls in the hopes we may catch a serial offender. Hopefully, everyone can agree that the likelihood of the police attending a call about excessive speed and managing to catch the driver is quite low, and we may need to look at combined efforts here to protect everyone. However, you've essentially made it clear that you won't address the area and it's up to us to ask for the RCMP support:

*"The speeding concerns that you have largely relate to driver behaviour. In these circumstances, Police enforcement is one of the more effective remedies, but they are subject to available resources and priorities. In addition, the poor driver behaviour you witness on your street probably occurs at many other locations by the same driver making the same infractions. As speeding is a compliance issue that is best dealt through enforcement, we suggest you contact RCMP at their non-emergency number 604-646-9999 to request enforcement."*

I ask you, is this an acceptable solution to the tragic and unnecessary deaths of your citizens? Would this be an acceptable answer to you if it were your children at daily risk from the negligence of not only drivers but of the city councilors as well? Is this what we can expect living in Burnaby?

There are options for more signage, a raised crosswalk, and a 3-Way Stop implementation at Duthie and Montecito would at least show some attempt to hear us and protect us. This would add to the visual queues necessary for drivers to think about their actions. It's not perfect, but it's something.

While [I am aware that Councillor Calendino](#) is of the impression that you can't control drivers who break the law, as he quoted "Those are things that no council, no committee can prevent when you have drivers that do not observe the laws of the road. It doesn't matter how many laws we put in and how many regulations and how many lights, if you have drivers that don't observe those regulations and laws, what's any person going to do?" and would clearly prefer not to deal with traffic issues (perhaps he's a speedy driver himself?) we hope some of the other councillors would see the need and value in at least trying to protect people. Again, progress over perfection, there are no absolute answers here that will solve the problem entirely.

It has also been noted in that article that you stated a "major bus route" cannot have speed bumps installed.

"As per the City's policy, the speed humps are placed only on local residential streets and at non bus routes," wrote a traffic technician. "Duthie Ave is classified as Major collector and is a bus route too therefore speed humps cannot be placed."

And while I empathize with bus riders, I am more concerned for the lives of our children and ask why there is no ability to add a raised crosswalk, and a set of pedestrian-controlled lights? The situation today is that we ask 10-12-year-old children to act as crossing guards during the school year, essentially putting them in harm's way, with literally no extra protection, because the city seems to believe the cost of living in a transit-accessible area is the lives of our children. This may be simply a "major bus route" to you as city councillors, but it's a residential street and home to the people of this community. While we understand the need for efficient transit routes, there has to be a middle ground where decisions are based on human outcomes as well as bus schedules.

The continued neglect of this area to be traffic-calmed has claimed two lives, and more will follow. This area is increasingly bad, with cars also blowing through the intersection at Phillips and Burnwood, a few blocks away, several times daily. We fear for our children daily. They cannot ride their bikes, and it appears they cannot even walk on the sidewalk along Duthie anymore. We do our best to protect them every day, but it is hard to protect them with no extra measures allowed.

It seems the city should have some interest in mitigating the impacts of excessive speed that come from living in the center of major routes to and from the highways, near a pub, and a golf course. We didn't designate Duthie a major route from Hastings to the highway, but we're living with the consequences.

What, if anything, are you, the city, willing to do to protect the people of Montecito from being harmed by hasty drivers who are unwilling to heed the 30km/hr speed limits as they use our residential streets to ratrun between highways? What can we do to protect our children from the drivers, and the decision-makers, of our city?

The parents and community members in Montecito need concrete solutions and plans to address the increased danger on our streets. I hope that includes a combination of additional signage, an added 3-way Stop, and more planned traffic enforcement that is encouraged by the city, and not the sole responsibility of your community members.

We hope you will address this, swiftly, before anyone else has to lose their lives.

Thank you,

Brandee Barker