

Nancy B. Schroeder

Oak Park, IL 60304

25 August 2019

The Transportation Commission, Attn: Jill Juliano
The Village of Oak Park, Public Works Center
201 South Boulevard
Oak Park, IL 60302

Dear Oak Park Village Staff and Transportation Commission,

We, the undersigned petitioners and residents of S. Euclid and S. Oak Park Avenues, are asking you to consider traffic calming measures at the intersection of S. Euclid Ave and Fillmore Street. We would like a minimum of a four-way stop and continental crossing markings on the street. We also encourage you to investigate further traffic calming measures, including but not limited to: bump outs on the corners of the intersections and speed bumps on the streets surrounding Euclid Square Park.

Our primary concern is pedestrian safety. Pedestrians regularly use this intersection to walk to the commerce on Roosevelt Road, which is one block south. More concerning is the pedestrian use to access the nearby Euclid Square playground and park. This intersection is at the mouth of the newly renovated and very popular Euclid Square playground. On more than one occasion, I have seen children dart across the road in excitement to visit the playground. In early July, a 5-year-old neighbor of ours was crossing toward the park and was hit by a car on Fillmore near Wesley, dragged 20 yards, and seriously injured; the same thing could happen one block west on S. Euclid. On the 1100 block of S. Euclid alone, there are over 20 children, many under the age of five, not to mention this intersection is only two blocks east of Lincoln Elementary. And though the park is populated throughout the day, the busiest time of day for pedestrian traffic is at dusk—a time when both traffic and lighting are at their worst. Furthermore, many cars park along Fillmore just east of the intersection, including an ice cream truck most summer evenings, further obscuring views of pedestrians as they step into the street.

Our secondary and tertiary concerns revolve around excessive vehicle speeds and volumes, which go hand-in-hand and further endanger pedestrians. Because this intersection is one block east of Oak Park Ave and one block north of Roosevelt Rd, commuters use this intersection as a cut-through to quickly bypass the stack of cars sitting at the traffic light at Oak Park Ave and Roosevelt Rd. This is on top of excessive vehicle speeds that occur on S. Euclid throughout the day. We do frequently have a police officer stationed in the alley between Oak Park Ave and S. Euclid Ave, which we appreciate greatly, but his being there has not done much to curb the general speeding issue nor did it prevent a child from being hit by a car.

Our neighborhood is full of children and adult pedestrians alike. I'd like to give drivers every advantage to avoid hurting the smallest members of our community who may not know better than to stop and look both ways.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy B. Schroeder

Nancy B. Schroeder on behalf of the petitioners of S. Euclid and S. Oak Park Avenue

August 26, 2019

Jill Juliano, P.E.
Transportation Engineer
Village of Oak Park

Dear Ms. Juliano,

My name is Meghan Condon. I am the owner of [REDACTED] in Oak Park. I am writing on behalf of my fellow concerned homeowners surrounding the intersection of Wesley Ave. and Fillmore St. to request that the Village:

- Undertake a traffic study of the intersection and adjacent blocks of Wesley and Filmore.
- Convert the intersection to a four-way stop
- Consider other traffic calming such as bump outs
- Consider measures to enhance visibility of crosswalks

We have gathered the signatures of 42 of the total 48 homes on the blocks of Wesley and Filmore, totaling well over the required 51% of the frontage on Wesley as well as all corner lots surrounding the intersection.

We, the homeowners, believe this intersection presents serious and unique pedestrian safety concerns, which we detail below. We begin by explaining the use of the intersection by pedestrians and vehicles. We then explain how these patterns combine to create unsafe conditions. We close the letter by detailing our specific requests.

Pedestrian Use

The intersection abuts Euclid Square Park, which was renovated in 2017 with the explicit stated goals of increasing use by seniors and young children. The renovated park includes a fully ADA accessible tot lot designed to serve toddlers and early elementary-aged children, "toddler rolling and sledding" hills, a new walking path, and pickle ball courts. These renovations have successfully increased use by seniors and the large population of children in the surrounding area.

Euclid Square park also sits between the Irving Elementary and Lincoln Elementary attendance areas. These schools enroll a combined 1178 children in grades K-5. There are also several younger children and day care providers who regularly use the park. On the two blocks of Wesley Ave. participating in this petition there are over 40 children under the age of 12. We, the neighboring homeowners, have observed a significant increase in foot traffic to the park since the renovation, in

particular by young children. **Put simply, this intersection is designed to draw high numbers of children, and it does just that.**

Vehicle Traffic

The location of the intersection is unique for a second reason; it lies one block north of the commuter and business thoroughfare Roosevelt Road and two blocks east of Oak Park Avenue. As a result, many drivers attempt to bypass these busier (and often congested) roads by driving through the residential streets. This use occurs throughout the day and night, but is particularly heavy during the evening rush hour (also a heavy pedestrian use time).

Rushing and distracted commuters and delivery drivers frequently disregard traffic laws and signage, as evidenced by regular traffic stops on Wesley by the Oak Park Police during rush hours. We the neighboring homeowners regularly see cars come only to rolling stops, or disregard stop signs entirely. Often drivers turning onto Fillmore from Oak Park Avenue seem to expect no stop sign since there is not one at Euclid and Fillmore.

This traffic pattern occurs all day long, but is again particularly noticeable during the early evenings when many children are walking to the park. This time period also sees high use from sometimes distracted adolescent drivers who use the tennis courts at Euclid for OPRF and Fenwick practice in the afternoons. In addition, food delivery vehicles from Roosevelt Road businesses, Amazon and other delivery drivers, and Uber and Lyft drivers ferrying commuters or trying to get quickly back downtown regularly use both Wesley and Fillmore to more quickly reach customers. These and other vehicles frequently speed through the intersection without checking crosswalks on the way to their destinations. As a result, we see "near misses," hear screeching stops, and observe honking drivers daily at this intersection.

Visibility

Finally, we note that the location of the walled tennis courts and cars parked all the way up to the stop signs often obstruct driver view of the crosswalks. We request that the traffic study also focus on measures to improve visibility of pedestrians at the intersection, including further restricting parking and vegetation near the intersections.

Requests

To be clear, though we do observe speeding vehicles, our primary concerns are about more than speed. There is a frequent disregard for existing signs and distracted commuter traffic, combined with the high number of pedestrians, in particular young children and seniors, and obstructed visibility. These concerns are founded in our observations, but also in the frequency of accidents and traffic stops.

Recently a five-year-old neighborhood child was struck in the crosswalk by an oncoming vehicle, sustaining serious injuries. We feel strongly that inaction on the part of the Village, given the use patterns and visibility concerns, would contribute to substantial continued risk for other area children.

For these reasons, we first request that the Village install a four-way stop sign at the intersection. It seems a highly reasonable policy decision to have four-way stops at intersections which draw high numbers of children on foot and commuters in cars, and which see regular accidents. We also request that the Village undertake a study of traffic patterns and additional traffic calming measures. To be clear, we believe that the traffic study should include all four blocks adjacent to this intersection.

We note that the original 2009 Consensus Plan for the renovation of Euclid Square Park included bump outs for the slowing and reduction of traffic surrounding the park. This is the only portion of the plan that has not been implemented. We request this and other traffic calming and visibility measures again be considered.

We have contacted the Oak Park Fire Department and confirmed that neither Wesley nor Fillmore are primary emergency routes. We look forward to working with the Village to reduce unnecessary risk and increase the safety of this intersection.

Sincerely,

Dr. Meghan Condon

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Oak Park, IL 60304



EUCLID SQUARE PARK

