

Attachment # 1

Letter to Mayor and Council from the New Westminster District Parent Advisory Council

Mayor Patrick Johnstone
City of New Westminster Council
By email: pjohnstone@newwestcity.ca, clerks@newwestcity.ca
29 January, 2023

Dear Mayor Johnstone and Councilors,

Re: Extension of School Speed Zone Enforcement Hours Request

At the School District 40 (New Westminster) District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) meeting on January 19th the following motion was passed by the members:

That the DPAC executive send a letter to Mayor Patrick Johnstone and Council to request the extension of school speed zone enforcement hours to start at 7 am and end at 10 pm, in alignment with that of our neighbouring municipality the City of Burnaby.

Schools and school playgrounds are community hubs that are frequently used by families and community groups outside of regular school hours. Extra curricular activities for students such as band concerts or sports often extend into the evening hours. Community groups utilize school facilities for their meetings and activities in the evenings, similar to how municipal park facilities and playgrounds are used in evening hours.

Traffic and transportation research¹ is very clear that reduced vehicle speed limits save lives² and significantly reduce the likelihood and severity of injury resulting from vehicle collisions³. This understanding was the primary reason for implementing school speed zones from 8 am to 5 pm in the first place. By extending school speed zone enforcement hours to align with the times that school facilities and grounds are still in use by students, staff, families, community groups, extra curricular participants and the general public, you would be extending the student pedestrian protections provided by reduced vehicle speeds to all users of school facilities and grounds.

Thank you for your time in consideration of this request to enhance pedestrian safety around schools. Please reach out to us at newwestdpacchair@gmail.com if you wish to discuss this request further.

With kind regards,

Laura Kwong
SD40 DPAC Chair

cc SD40 Board of Education
SD40 Superintendent Hachlaf, CEO
Burnaby-New West Walkers' Caucus c/o Vic Leach

¹ Fridman, L., et al. 2020. Effect of reducing the posted speed limit to 30 km per hour on pedestrian motor vehicle collisions in Toronto, Canada. *BMC Public Health* 20, 56.

² Richard A. Retting, et al., 2003: A Review of Evidence-Based Traffic Engineering Measures Designed to Reduce Pedestrian–Motor Vehicle Crashes, *American Journal of Public Health* 93, 1456-1463

³ R.W.G Anderson, et al., Vehicle travel speeds and the incidence of fatal pedestrian crashes, *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, Volume 29, Issue 5, 1997, Pages 667-674