

June 23, 2003

Chapel Hill Town Council
Town of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Dear Town Council Members:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR RESTRICTED PARKING IN CULBRETH PARK
SUBDIVISION**

This letter is written to request action regarding a very serious safety hazard to homeowners, children, visitors, and emergency personnel in the Culbreth Park Subdivision off of Culbreth Road.

On Sunday, May 10th, my brother was hit head-on by a car while riding his motorcycle on Fan Branch Lane. Fan Branch Lane is narrow street with a steep hill (which is hidden by the bushes as you enter), wraps around an island and ends with a cul-de-sac. Vehicles (cars, trucks, sports utilities, campers, etc.) park on both sides of the street in the curves, on the hills, around the island and near the stop sign. Driveways are provided for all houses; however, the occupants (mostly students) rarely use the driveways.

Over a year ago, I spoke with David Brown, prior Traffic Engineer, in person and thru email regarding these unsafe conditions as well as others in my neighborhood and provided pictures. Now an accident has occurred that may have been prevented had some prevention measures been taken at that time. I met with Kumar Neppalli, Traffic Engineer on May 16, 2003 to discuss these issues and he advised me that I would need to submit a request to the Town Council.

Culbreth Park was developed to be a family oriented neighborhood; however, many of the houses are being rented to three or more students per house. There are at least three houses occupied by students who speed thru the neighborhood without concern for our children biking and playing in the neighborhood. This speeding contributes to a sense of uneasiness and in many cases presents unnecessary risk to residents, pedestrians, and motorists. They park illegally and create a traffic and safety problem by parking their large SUV vehicles on both sides of the street. There have been so many "near" accidents due to vehicles being parked on both sides of the street and the bushes obscuring drivers' vision.

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Last summer we witness a fire truck attempting to come down to the cul-de-sac of Fan Branch Lane and it was unable to proceed due to vehicles parked on both sides of the street. These current hazards increase the likelihood of accidents and will continue to delay services especially emergency services if something is not done; therefore, I would like to request restricted parking be mandated to one side of the street.

Thank you for your consideration and for making our neighborhood a safe place to live.

Sincerely

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