

AGENDA #3a(2)

Pat Thomas
501 North Street
Chapel Hill N.C., 27514
(919)942-6720
January 18th, 2004

Mayor and Council, Town of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia St.
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516

Dear Sir. And Town Council Members,

I have been a resident of North Street for about forty years. Throughout my years in the neighborhood, it has been clear that the intersection of North and Hillsborough Street is a matter of great concern. The public safety issues of very poor visibility and rampant speeding on Hillsborough Street have been the cause of many accidents. The death of a friend and North Street neighbor was the tragic result of speeding on Hillsborough Street, as she was struck and killed at this intersection several years ago. Also, the frightening incident of the truck crashing through the Benfry's home at 307 Hillsborough Street over the holidays was a reminder of the threat and possible destruction that reckless driving can create. My concerns about the speeding on Hillsborough Street are serious.


First and foremost, I'm concerned about this public safety issue because my very young grandchildren live on Hillsborough Street. They cross the street (supervised of course) to play with neighbors. This requires intense concentration of the supervising adult, followed by a mad dash for safety. The first grader catches her school bus right at this problematic intersection. Drivers are accustomed to high speed without consequence, thus when the bus stops to drop children off, the average driver is unprepared to stop. This is an issue which can not be ignored any longer.

Secondly, I am the property owner of two rental houses on Hillsborough Street. One is at the top of the hill, while the other is fairly close to Bolin Creek Apartments. Tenants in both houses have complained throughout the years, about feeling uncertain when pulling onto Hillsborough Street from their driveway due to blind curves and outrageous speeding.

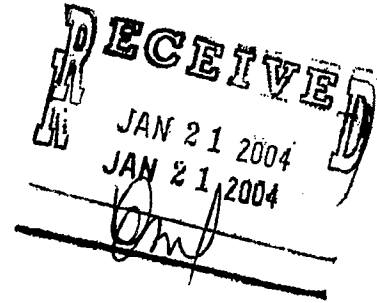
Thirdly, as a resident and a senior citizen, I'm concerned for my own person safety when negotiating this intersection. This is true when traveling by car and foot. I feel it is the town's obligation to install "traffic calming" measures in the very near future.

I am requesting the town open a case study to monitor this collective and on going public safety issue. Mason Farm Road is a perfect example of what can be done to tame traffic. This road has both "traffic calming" signs and "speed humps". Prior to this installation, Mason Farm Road had a lot in common with Hillsborough Street. Both roads are hilly, both roads have a distinct history with reckless speeding, and both roads share the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

Thank you for your consideration,


Pat Thomas

Garland and KC Hattman
404 Hillsborough St.
Chapel Hill N.C., 27514
(919)942-6776
January 18th, 2004



Mayor and Council, Town of Chapel Hill
306 North Columbia St.
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516

Dear Sir. And Town Council Members,

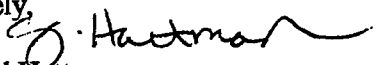
I live at 404 Hillsborough Street, which is close to the intersection of Hillsborough and North Street. I live with my husband and two young children (ages two and six). We built our house about three years ago, and absolutely love the neighborhood. I grew up around the corner on North Street, thus we feel very much at home. During the last few years, our section of Hillsborough Street (which is in the Historic District), has experienced a revitalization. Houses have been restored and young families have moved into the neighborhood. We have a chronologically diverse block which includes young families with children ranging from infancy to middle school, to an elderly "seeing impair" gentleman who has lived on Hillsborough Street all my life. Our block has a sense of community, which is difficult to maintain when it feels that we are living on an interstate. Preserving this sense of community is in the best interest of our neighborhood and the town of Chapel Hill. For these many reasons, I'm compelled to voice my grave concern about the chronic and reckless speeding which take place on our street.

When I cross the street with my children or even pull out of my driveway, I fear that I'm endangering our live. This is due to the combination of the shocking speed in which vehicles travel and the topography of Hillsborough Street. As we all know, Hillsborough Street is quite hilly and has many "blind curves". My six year old daughter attends Glenwood Elementary School and her bus stop, along with four other neighbors, is on Hillsborough Street just beyond North Street. This does seem to be the best location and offers the most visibility for on coming traffic. Despite this fact, this is the intersection where Mrs. Oaks (a resident of North Street) was hit and killed by a speeding car several years ago. When the school bus has come to a complete stop (with it's "stop" sign extended), traffic in both directions often has to come to a jerking halt, due to their excessive speed. This is a serious safety issue which must be addressed.

The speed limit is 25 miles per hour. Despite the posted limit, the majority of drivers (by far) travel between 40 to 45 miles per hour. I know this because after a pickup truck crashed through my neighbor's foyer, an electronic sign was set up to alert drivers of their true speed. There was an increase in patrolling after this incident, but the effects of an occasional ticket are destined to be short-lived in the great scheme of things. As a neighborhood, we appreciate additional patrolling, but require a solution which is more concrete.

With these facts in mind I'm requesting a case study of traffic on Hillsborough Street. I strongly encourage you to consider "traffic calming" measures in a timely manner. We do have "rumble strips" in front of the vacant sorority house, which have proven to be ineffective and noisy. Other options might include the speed swells or gentle humps, and eye catching signage. Please consider this a priority in the name of public safety. Thank you for your time and willingness to hear my concern.

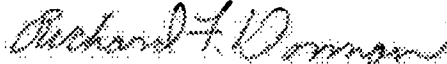
Sincerely,


Garland Hattman

To the Mayor and Town Council Members

We live on Hillsborough Street just below the North Street Intersection. This fall and winter we have noticed that the traffic on the street has increased greatly, making the street much more dangerous for residents and pedestrians. We request a case study of the traffic at this intersection. We hope the town will use traffic calming measures such as speed humps or stop signs for safety and speed reduction. We appreciate your consideration of this serious situation.

Richard F. Donnan



Caroline W. Donnan



January 23, 2004