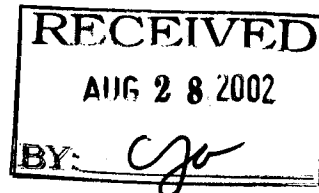


504 Monroe Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

Mayor Kevin Foy
Chapel Hill Town Council
306 North Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

August 20, 2002

Dear Mayor Foy:



I am writing to request that the town conduct an evaluation of traffic and the need for traffic calming devices in the Westwood neighborhood of Chapel Hill. Nearly a year ago we circulated a petition, which I have enclosed, to assess whether a significant number of Westwood residents felt concerned about speeding cars in our neighborhood. A large number of residents questioned signed the petition and we therefore request that the town assess the situation.

As you may know, Westwood is an older neighborhood that lies just west of South Columbia St., from Westwood Drive to the 54-bypass. Our neighborhood lies in close proximity to UNC Hospital and the School of Public Health. Many, but not all, of our traffic problems stem from this proximity to campus. The neighborhood has narrow streets, many with ditches on either side, no sidewalks, and many blind curves. The speed limit of 25 mph is routinely exceeded by many drivers. Several residents have had "near escapes" from speeding cars and many of us fear for the children walking home or riding bikes on our narrow streets. We have had a neighborhood meeting to discuss the situation; Chapel Hill Police Officers Chris Blue and Michael Stone were kind enough to attend that meeting.

We have identified two primary areas that we hope a town assessment will focus on— student traffic from the Monroe/Dawes/Coolidge St. area and "cut-through" traffic further north in the neighborhood (Westwood Dr. across from Mason Farm Rd. and West University Dr.). While the northern part of the neighborhood is single-family homes, the southern end (from Smith Ave. south to Monroe St.) is a mix of single-family homes and duplexes. The Monroe St. duplexes have three bedrooms on each side and can have six students in each. While some are excellent neighbors, others have routinely ignored both verbal and written requests to obey the neighborhood speed limit. Since it is possible to drive through the neighborhood up to Cameron Ave., the presence of fast drivers in the southern part of the neighborhood puts the entire neighborhood at risk. Dawes St. is particularly dangerous as it is a long stretch of uninterrupted road that leads directly to some of the town houses; neighborhood children often cross Dawes St. to play in a field at the end of Dawes.

In the northern part of the neighborhood, there seems to have been an increase in the number of vehicles, including university vehicles and construction traffic, that routinely cut through Westwood Drive and W. University Drive to get to other parts of campus or town. Many of these vehicles are driven at an unsafe speed for this neighborhood.

New construction, much of it duplex housing in the southern part of the neighborhood, will only increase the traffic pressures in Westwood—a neighborhood already adversely affected by the university's expansion plans and current construction. Many of us who live here love to walk to work on campus or bike into town, but may no longer feel safe doing so if the current traffic problems are not addressed.

I hope that you will bring our request for an evaluation before the Town Council at your next meeting or refer to the appropriate town staff. Please let me know if it is necessary for a neighborhood representative to be present at the Town Council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann N. Chelminski".

Ann N. Chelminski

932-1755

ann_chelminski@med.unc.edu

September 7, 2001

Town Council
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Town Council:

We, the undersigned homeowners/residents of the Westwood neighborhood, hereby petition the Town Council to address traffic calming measures in our neighborhood and suggest installing speed bumps in our neighborhood. Although we realize we may have to prioritize speed bump locations at a later time, we suggest the following locations: Woodland, Dogwood, Westwood, West University, Old Pittsboro, Smith, Dawes and Coolidge. Ever since the Town Council approved the numerous building projects in our neighborhood, the transient and speeding traffic has increased significantly.

The streets are narrow, none have sidewalks, most are without curbs and gutters, many have ditches and gullies making it almost impossible for pedestrians to avoid speeding vehicles, and many have very light-duty pavement which is not in good condition. There is a great deal of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and this area is a favorite for joggers and dog-walking. High speed traffic here is exceedingly dangerous.

The risk to homeowners/residents and their family's safety (especially children) has increased significantly and many residents are willing to appear before the Council to express their deep concern over safety issues, especially their children's safety. Because of the street layout, this is not a case of foreign cut through traffic. The residents want to slow traffic in the neighborhood for safety reasons.

We would like this issue addressed as soon as possible and feel that the speed bumps are the only way to address the situation and to rectify the past actions of the City Council in allowing all of this development in our neighborhood. Please respond to the residents listed below as soon as possible. The development in our neighborhood is ongoing and the traffic will only get worse.

Your consideration and cooperation is greatly appreciated, With kind regards,

The residents of Westwood

Resident Name	Address	Phone number
Paul Chelminski	504 Hancock St, CH	919-932-1755
EMilia @ Indee D	1006 Dawes St Chapel Hill NC 27516	919-932-9194 E maria SAUNDERS
Karen Worley/Mike	812 Woodland Ave Chapel Hill	919-937-4503
KAREN AND BOB DUROVICH	811 WOODLAND AVENUE	942-9307
Marina Chase	505 Pine Bluff Trail	960-8612

Justin Young	505 Pine Bluff Trail	960-802
DE SUGA	515 DOGWOOD DR	8012222
Jennifer Browning	321 W. University Dr.	969-7658
Joe Capowhki	404 COLLEGE ST	929-1670
VIRGINIA FRENCH	503 Dogwood DR	942-3533
Vanita Sanders	606 Coolidge St.	942-3728
Charles House	425 Westwood Dr.	929-8750
Mike Turner	809 Woodland Ave	942-0115
Marsha Turner	809 Woodland Ave	942-0115
Frank French	503 Dogwood Dr.	942-3533
Harold Harper	329 W/University Dr.	942-2471
Brian Dinger	503 Pine Bluff Tr.	929-9264
Melanie Taylor	428 Westwood Dr	933-0854
Marjorie Fawcett	414 Smith Avenue	929-2167
George Fawcett	406 Westwood Dr	942-0671
Ronnie Gadsden	406 Westwood Dr.	942-0671
Alicia Ammerman	505 Dogwood Dr.	933-9129
Joe Lushuk	418 Westwood Dr.	932-9676
Mary Stuart Smith	512 Dogwood Dr	929-8686
BRADLEY KIRSCH	1 PENICK	932-5052
Jalerie Carter	414 Westwood	942-6895

Charles Carter 414 Westwood 942-6895
 Carl + William Henderson 804 Woodland Ave 942-2127

Resident Name Address Phone number

Elaine Barney	407 Westwood Drive Chapel Hill 27516	929-6316
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