

December 21, 2016

Dear Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers:

We, the residents of Grafton Street between Wisconsin Avenue and Kirkside Drive, are petitioning to request a waiver to the current speed bump policy so that we may install speed bumps on our block. Maintaining the quality of life in the Village is a prime objective of the Board of Managers, and we hope the Board will help us mitigate an escalating and unique problem on our block that is detracting from our quality of life.

As you know, Grafton Street is one of two entrances to the Village off Wisconsin Avenue, the other being Oliver Street. Because of its placement across from Dorset Avenue, we get substantially more traffic than the Oliver Street residents, due to drivers using Grafton as a west to east route that is a less congested alternative to Western Avenue or Bradley Blvd. The last traffic survey performed by Chief Fitzgerald in 2014 estimated 730 vehicles drive down our block every day. We suspect that new navigation devices like Waze that show drivers 'shortcuts' have driven that volume even higher. We are also a unique block in that, by our rough count, we have 17 children -- most of whom are under the age of 12 - living on our block.

While we have not been able to prove that drivers are traveling above 25mph (the current requirement for a speed bump) we know from the 2014 study that drivers were traveling on average 23 mph (in both directions!) This is a block with children and pets. Our kids cross back and forth on Grafton frequently to visit with each other and to catch the bus. Many of us park on the street and need to cross with groceries, etc. It is not only unsafe to have drivers at these speeds, it is unpleasant to feel we are living on a freeway. 23 mph is too fast, and that's before you take into account the outlier speeders (one of whom side-swiped a car parked on our block last week.) Furthermore, we have a problem with drivers illegally exiting onto Wisconsin (often at a high rate of speed to avoid detection) and a significant problem with drivers failing to brake at all at the Kirkside/Grafton stopsign. We think speed bumps would also alleviate those problems.

A speed bump would not only force people to brake, it would also allow them to regain some "situational awareness" as they are forced to unglue from their phones if even for a few seconds. We know that the rest of Grafton Street benefits from speed bumps, as the average rate of speed further down the street is 11mph. We would like share the benefit that our fellow Grafton Street residents get.

Thank you for your consideration.

Caroline and George Cooper
139 Grafton Street

Beverly and Tien Wong
146 Grafton Street

Kim and Matt Hyde
143 Grafton Street

Sue Cohen
144 Grafton Street

Ellen Lukens and Paul Sisson
141 Grafton Street

Gary and Marla Crockett
142 Grafton Street

Alex Thier and Tamara Gould
134 Grafton Street

Neda Kalantar and Kamran Koochekzad
136 Grafton Street

Alissa and Greg Parisi
138 Grafton Street

Jane and Bob Maruszewski
127 Grafton Street

Betty O'Connor
137 Grafton Street

Leanne and Stanley Macel
129 Grafton Street

Joanne Kyros and Thomas Schaufelberger
135 Grafton Street