

## 4.11 (e)

**Pilon, Janet**

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**Subject:** Safe streets needed!

**From:** kevin mutch

**Sent:** Saturday, May 7, 2022 5:06 PM

**To:** Nann, Nrinder <[Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca](mailto:Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca)>; Office of the Mayor <[Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca](mailto:Officeofthe.Mayor@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

**Subject:** Safe streets needed!

As Ward 3 homeowners, taxpayers and voters my wife and I would like to add our voices to the current calls for safer streets in Hamilton. We ourselves have had a number of narrow escapes walking our neighbourhood. We want our representatives to take action immediately to stem the appalling numbers of needless pedestrian deaths.

Central Hamilton has a wealth of beautiful old residential streets and charming shopping districts which are a pleasure to walk through. In our immediate neighbourhood several blocks of Barton Street were wisely given medians and bumpouts which allow foot traffic to safely cross and which reduce traffic speeds very effectively. The result has been a clear resurgence of new shops, restaurants and businesses, making this stretch of Barton one of the most lively and interesting areas of the city *and a much safer place to walk*.

But the medians end at Oak Street, and by the time one walks to Hamilton General the traffic has become much faster, with no less than five lanes for a pedestrian to try and cross. Just last year a man in a mobility scooter was killed there by a garbage truck. Walking west past Wellington, the next several blocks of Barton feel like a suburban arterial road rather than a neighbourhood commercial street. The sidewalks are so narrow and cars whiz by at such high speeds that we routinely cut through the city jail parking lot just to shorten our exposure to the obvious dangers of the traffic.

On other nearby streets, like Cannon and Wilson, the same problem is made even worse by having the streets be one-way. There are stretches of many blocks where local residents have no safe options to cross - no pedestrian crosswalks and no intersections. We've never seen a city so hard to walk in safely, and we've lived in Los Angeles!

As more and more new residents move into central Hamilton it's long past time to recognize that traffic patterns established in the 1940's and 50's need to be updated for safety and revitalization. Let's add more bumpouts and medians, as well as more pedestrian crosswalks like the one at Barton and Smith Ave. Let's reduce the speed limit and add more red light cameras. And let's restore Main Street to two-way, so it can be a healthy commercial destination for the community.

Very sincerely,

Kevin Mutch  
and Melissa Murray-Mutch