



Urban League

Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives

12-8304

RECEIVED

OCT 29 2012

CITY ENGINEER

URBAN LEAGUE of Racine and Kenosha, Inc.

An affiliate of the National Urban League www.ulrk.org
718 N. Memorial Dr., Racine, WI 53404 * Ph 262-637-8532 * Fax 262-637-8634
1418-68th St., Kenosha, WI 53143 * Ph 262-652-2111 * Fax 262-652-7044

October 24, 2012

Mayor John Dickert
City of Racine
730 Washington Ave.
Racine WI 53403

E-MAILED
10/29/2012

Dear Honorable Mayor Dickert:

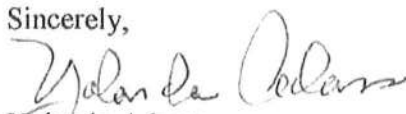
Our agency has had a successful after-school program for the past five years. Youth participants have been majority middle and high school students, with the exception of the summer months when we serve young children. Since the start of the 2012-13 school year, we have seen our youth shift to younger students in grades 3-6. The change has resulted in a problem not previously experienced. Although the intersection of N. Memorial Drive and Liberty Street has always been a difficult street to cross, even for adults, it has become extremely dangerous for our youth ages 8 to 12 who participate in our after-school program.

One of the ways we are addressing this danger is to have two college instructors (interns) for the program assume responsibility for crossing the youth as they leave our agency. However, because the children arrive at different times between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., we do not always see them cross the street upon arrival. Herein lies the danger. They are crossing the street without assistance at a dangerous intersection.

It should be noted the intersection of Memorial Drive and Liberty Street has no painted crosswalk lines (east/west) to guide the children where to cross. Further, there are no crosswalk lines crossing Liberty Street (south/north). Vehicles trying to beat the stop-and-go light at Memorial and State Street travel at high speeds through the green light (far exceeding the 30 mph speed limit). Almost daily, we hear brakes "screech" when pedestrians are almost hit by cars. It is urgent that we do something quickly to prevent a child or citizen from being hit and/or killed by a vehicle or a vehicular accident with fatalities. Mayor, we urgently need your help.

Please pass on our concerns to administration at City Hall. We are requesting some "children crossing" signage, painted crosswalks, and perhaps a review of lowering the speed limit because of the number of children in this neighborhood. In the meanwhile, police surveillance of speed limit violations in this vicinity would be greatly appreciated. I may be reached at 262-898-9066.

Sincerely,


Yolanda Adams
Cc: Ald. Q.A. Shakoor

J,
Please make sure this is on
next Common Council Agenda.
Thanks
