

Government of the District of Columbia ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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ANC 3/4G Resolution Requesting Interim Safety Measures at
Military Road and Chevy Chase Parkway NW and
Calling a Post-installation Community Meeting on Whether to
Designate the Chevy Chase Parkway Block Between
Legation Street & Military Road One Way
November 8, 2021

RESOLVED, ANC 3/4G requests the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT) immediately install long-promised, interim safety measures at the intersection of Military Road, NW and Chevy Chase Parkway, NW, including (1) a change in the lane marker to reduce the width of the southbound lane of Chevy Chase Parkway, NW between Legation Street, NW and Military Road, NW, (2) pavement markings on the same segment of Chevy Chase Parkway, NW to alert southbound drivers they are approaching the intersection, and (3) a bollard or flex-post island at the north side of the intersection to mark where the road crossing begins so southbound drivers stop.

FURTHER, once the interim safety measures are fully in place, the Commission will convene a community meeting to consider whether to support DDOT's traffic study recommendation to designate the block of Chevy Chase Parkway, NW between Military Road, NW and Legation Street, NW one way northbound.

RATIONALE

- 1) There have been between a dozen and twenty accidents a year at this intersection. Most are fender benders, but several have been serious and resulted in personal injury. All pose a threat to pedestrians. In one of the most recent, one of the two vehicles careened up onto the sidewalk.
- 2) A <u>Sept, 2018 DDOT traffic safety study</u> concluded that most accidents involve southbound drivers on Chevy Chase Parkway, NW either failing to stop at the intersection or, because of poor sight lines, nosing into it and being hit by eastbound or westbound vehicles traveling on Military Road. The study recommended making the one block of Chevy Chase Parkway, NW between Military Road, NW and Legation Street NW one way northbound. The proposal met with opposition from neighbors concerned the change would increase traffic on side streets and was not pursued further.

When accidents continued to occur, a group of neighbors in the immediate vicinity of the intersection began corresponding with DDOT officials who assured them the Department would take action to improve safety, but DDOT did nothing further in response.

- 3) On July 27, 2021, Chair Speck and Commissioner Gosselin met at the intersection with DDOT traffic operations engineer Derek Voight and others. They agreed to a series of interim safety measures that could be immediately implemented. These included larger, double-sided STOP signs at the northwest and southeast corners of the intersection, moving the centerline marker on Chevy Chase Parkway, pavement signage, and a bollard island on Chevy Chase Parkway at the north side of the intersection. To date, only the STOP signs have been installed.
- 4) On September 13, 2021, Acting DDOT Director Everett Lott attended the Commission's Public Meeting and engaged in a lengthy discussion about the intersection during which he committed to have all interim safety measures in place by the end of October, 2021. Although in subsequent correspondence with residents Director Lott suggested he had not made such a commitment, the <u>videotaped exchange</u> with the Commission is clear. After Mr. Voight, who joined Director Lott at the session, listed the measures to be installed, Director Lott was asked whether he could commit to an October 31, 2021 deadline. He <u>answered</u> ``We'll commit to that. We will commit to that, yes, the end of October."
- 5) On November 1, 2021, a southbound vehicle on Chevy Chase Parkway, NW and a westbound vehicle on Military Road, NW collided. Traffic was snarled for several hours.

- 6) The interim measures that DDOT has agreed to implement could immediately reduce the dangers at the intersection. The Commission aims to make sure these measures are implemented and has no intention of discouraging the agency from installing them or give any appearance that might serve as a pretext for delay.
- 7) Residents in the immediate vicinity of the intersection, especially those with children, believe the problems at the location are so threatening they want the Chevy Chase Parkway, NW block from Legation Street, NW to Military Road NW made one way northbound—in essence, agreeing with DDOT's traffic study recommendation. The Commission takes the position that once the interim safety measures are fully in place and evaluated for their effectiveness in calming traffic and increasing the safety for travel through that intersection, it will take up the proposal and consider arguments for and against.

ADOPTED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of four (4) of six (6) members was present on November 8, 2021, by a vote of 5 (Yes), 1 (No), 0 (Abstain).

Randy Speck, Chair

Peter Gosselin, Secretary