

Madalyn Letellier

From: Sarah Prusik [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2024 6:52 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: All City Council; Public Comments
Subject: Letter concerning Mystic Valley Parkway & Boston Avenue
Attachments: Letter Concerning Mystic Valley Parkway - S. Prusik.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

This email is from an external source. Use caution responding to it, opening attachments or clicking links.

Hi Councilor,

This is Sarah Prusik, a resident of the 7th Ward, emailing a letter I would like to submit to the city council regarding traffic incidents at the corner of Boston Avenue and Mystic Valley Parkway. Please find the letter attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for representing the 7th ward!

Best,
Sarah Prusik

Sarah Prusik

Somerville, MA 02144

Judy Pineda Neufeld
Somerville City Council

Dear Councilor,

I am writing as a resident of Somerville, Massachusetts concerning the safety of drivers and pedestrians alike at the intersection of Boston Avenue and Mystic Valley Parkway. As many who live in the area know, Mystic Valley Parkway is a thoroughfare used by commuters who are not connected to the Medford/Somerville area and view this road as a miniature highway for getting from one point to another. Drivers regularly disregard speed limits as well as traffic lights. Given these factors, this intersection is frequently the site of high-speed auto vehicular accidents. What makes this situation even more dangerous is the high volume of bikers and pedestrians, many with strollers or children, who are “sitting ducks” while they wait for the light to change. This year a car accident toppled one of the pedestrian cross lights. This could have been a fatal accident for any pedestrian unlucky enough to have been waiting to cross.

Just in the past 6 weeks I have witnessed 2 high-speed crashes at this intersection. The pedestrian walkway along the river is consistently littered with car shrapnel, including glass and debris from taillights and bumpers. Clearly, drivers feel at ease disregarding traffic laws at this intersection. The only logical explanation is that those laws must rarely be enforced by the city of Somerville, leading to a culture where dangerous driving is not only accepted but is expected.

I would like to put it to the City Council of Somerville to address this clear and present danger to the residents of the 7th ward. As law-abiding, tax paying residents, it is our right to live near this intersection without worrying about our physical safety and the safety of others. Moreover, it is negligent of the city to simply ignore what is an obvious public safety issue. I love living in Somerville because of the quality of life it offers its residents, but this intersection is an aberration. I urge the City Council to investigate the frequency of accidents at the intersection of Boston Avenue and Mystic Valley Parkway, and to make the needed changes around enforcing sensible traffic laws for the safety of all. Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,
Sarah Prusik