

**Lopez, Donna**

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**From:** Carolyn [mc.shipley@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2013 11:46 PM  
**To:** Watkins, Kathy; riversidena@yahoogroups.com; visioncentralsquare@googlegroups.com; City Council; Reeves, Ken; vanBeuzekom, Minka; Clippinger, Sue; Davis, Henrietta; Maher, David; Simmons, Denise; craig@craigkelley.org; Toomey, Tim; Neil, Chris; Healy, Bob; Lopez, Donna; Haas, Robert  
**Subject:** Re: RE: Crosswalk at Kinnaird St.

TO THE CITY COUNCIL: FOR THE OFFICIAL RECORD. THANKS.

Dear Ms. Watkins, thank you for your response. I spoke before city council this evening and asked them why the children of Riverside are not as important as the children of other neighborhoods of this city. I asked why the city puts the regulation yield-to-pedestrian signs on other city streets, but not on the Riverside or Cambridgeport streets. I asked them: are our children not worth it? Apparently not. Had there been pedestrian safety measures in place when Willis B. Moore was killed at age 12 on Western Avenue, maybe he would be alive today.

Below are some of my comments in reply to your comments. I put my responses in all caps only so that they are distinguishable from your text. My email program is rather limited when it comes to changing fonts (Verizon mail) and, therefore, a different font was not an option. I do not mean the all caps to be email yelling.  
Respectfully,  
Carolyn Shipley

On 06/24/13, Watkins, Kathy <kwatkins@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Carolyn,

Hi, thanks for your continued commitment to pedestrian safety issues in the City. **YOU KNOW, YES, I AM COMMITTED TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID BEING RUN OVER BY VEHICLES ON MY NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS FOR 32 YEARS.**

Below is an update on the on the Western Avenue project, which I hope is helpful.

The Western Avenue construction project is a significant commitment to reconstructing Western Avenue between Memorial Drive and Green Street. Construction began in the fall of 2012 and includes a new storm water outfall to the Charles River, new sewer and drain lines, new water main, new sidewalks, new cycle track, full depth reconstruction of the roadway and new street trees, landscaping and irrigation. >>>>YES, THANKS, I AM VERY AWARE OF THIS, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MANY OF THE "WALKS" DOWN WESTERN AVE. WITH JEFF ROSENBLUM, AND INDEED HAVE THE DRAWINGS FOR THE FINAL VERSION OF THE STREET, INCLUDING THE SMALL GREEN AREAS THAT WILL LINE THE STREET.

The City is committed to working with residents to mitigate the impacts of this construction. >>>>YET MY EMAILS AND EMAILS OF OTHER RESIDENTS SINCE JANUARY 2013 HAVE PRODUCED LITTLE CHANGES.

In response to requests in the fall 2012 from neighbors and the associated City Council order, the contractor for the Western Avenue Improvement Project installed four barrels with "yield to pedestrian signage." >>>THIS "REQUEST" WAS A PETITION ORIGINATED BY RACHEL GUNTHER OF VISION CENTRAL SQUARE AND IT CONTAINED 125 SIGNATURES OF PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE DROPPED OFF BY SCHOOL BUSES AT PLEASANT STREET AND KINNAIRD STREETS. LET'S CALL IT WHAT IT IS, I.E., A CITIZEN-ORIGINATED PETITION. THE BARRELS APPEARED IN LATE-SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER, BUT WERE SOON REMOVED WHEN SUPER STORM SANDY [NOV. 2012] APPROACHED AND THEN NEVER REPLACED. ONLY AFTER INQUIRIES WERE MADE IN JANUARY 2013, WERE WE ABLE TO GET THE "BARRELS" BACK. >>>NOTE THAT

## NEITHER THE CONTRACTOR NOR THE CITY WERE IN ANY HURRY TO REPLACE THE BARRELS AFTER SUPER STORM SANDY.

These barrels are located where Western Avenue intersects with Kinnaid, Pleasant, Dodge, and Blackstone streets. These types of devices are not typically installed on multi-lane 1-way streets, as they tend to be moved around by passing traffic and are difficult to maintain. >>>>INDEED, THE BARRELS ARE NOT STANDARD, REGULATION YIELD-TO-PEDESTRIANS SIGNS. THEY ARE DENTED, BENT, BROKEN, FALLING APART UGLY BARRELS. >>>> THE CITY SHOULD BE THE PARTY PLACING THE CORRECT YIELD-TO- PEDESTRIAN SIGNS, NOT THE CONTRACTOR. THE BARREL AT PLEASANT STREET TONIGHT IS OFF TO THE RIGHT SHOULDER OF THE ROAD AND BEYOND THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK, THAT IS, AFTER THE CROSSWALK. >>>THUS, DRIVERS DON'T SEE THE SIGN UNTIL THEY HAVE DRIVEN THROUGH THE CROSSWALK. ---

THE ONE AT KINNAIRD IS STILL OFF TO THE LEFT OF THE ROAD WITH SOME OF THE CONTRACTOR'S EQUIPMENT. >>>WERE ONE TO TRAVEL DOWN WESTERN AVENUE EITHER BY FOOT OR WHEELED VEHICLE, ONE WOULD NOTE THAT THERE IS NO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGN AT DDDGE STREET, NOR HAS THERE BEEN ONE OBSERVED THERE FOR WEEKS (AND WEEKS?). IN FACT, THERE ARE TWO OF THESE BARRELS AT BLACKSTDNE STREET.

WHETHER THE STREET IS ONE-WAY OR TWO-WAY, -- THE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC AND THE SPEED OF THE VEHICLES, INCLUDING CARS, MBTA BUSES, AND 18-WHEELER TRUCKS THREATEN THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS --- THE SAFETY OF RESIDENTS SHDULD BE PRE-EMINENT.

I DON'T CARE IF THE REGULATION SIGNS ARE "NOT TYPICALLY INSTALLED" ON MULTI-LANE 1-WAY STREETS OR NOT. THIS IS A STREET WITH LOTS OF CHILDREN, ELDERLY, AND LESS ABLE PEOPLE LIVING ON IT AND NEAR IT AND THEY NEED TO CROSS THE STREET IN SAFETY. WILLIS B. MOORE DID NDT.

The contractor is responsible for checking the placement and condition of these barrels each work day, but they are very challenging in terms of how much they are moved by traffic, as well as by adjacent residents who are disturbed by the barrels being hit at night. IT IS NOT SO MUCH OF A CHALLENGE. I HAVE REPLACED THE BARRELS MANY, MANY TIMES MYSELF. THE ISSUE OF BARRELS BEING HIT AT NIGHT CAME UP ONLY RECENTLY AT A RIVERSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING AND HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED IN ANY COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY UNTIL THAT MEETING.

FURTHERMORE, THE CONTRACTOR HAD THE BARREL AT KINNAIRD TIED UP FOR WEEKS ON END DF TO THE LEFT OF THE ROAD AND I COULD NOT PLACE IT BACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET. I SENT SEVERAL EMAILS TO THE CITY ABOUT THIS FACT AND NOTHING HAPPENED. THE BARREL REMAINED TIED TO EQUIPMENT ON THE SIDE DF THE ROAD. THE CONTRACTOR IS NEGLIGENT AND DELIBERATELY DISABLED THAT BARREL. ANYONE WOULD HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME CONVINCING ME THAT THE CONTRACTOR CHECKS THE BARRELS AT THE END OF EACH DAY! THEY SURE DID NOT CHECK THAT ONE!

The contractor has ordered the narrower "Yield to Pedestrians" signs, as shown in the image. These will be replacing the barrels as soon as they arrive from the supplier, which is anticipated within the next two weeks. >>> I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE CITY WON'T BUY THESE. >>>>>THE CONTRACTDR WILL JUST TAKE THEM AWAY WHEN DONE WITH ITS WORK AND THEN THE CITIZENS OF RIVERSIDE AND THE PEOPLE WHO USE WESTERN AVENUE WILL HAVE TD START ALL OVER AGAIN PETITIONING THE CITY FOR THE PROPER SIGNS. >>>THE CITY BUYS THEM FOR OTHER CITY STREETS.

In addition to the yield to pedestrian signage, the City has installed other signage in order to improve pedestrian safety, including "Do Not block Intersection" signs at signalized intersections of Putnam Avenue and Howard Street, as well as 20 mph construction advisory signage along the street. ACTUALLY, WERE ONE TO TRAVEL DOWN WESTERN AVENUE ANY TIME IN THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THE ONLY SIGN ONE WOULD OBSERVE IS THE ONE AT GREEN STREET THAT FLASHES: "WESTERN AVENUE CONSTRUCTION" ... "EXPECT DELAYS" ... "SEEK ALTERNATE ROUTES" BUT NO OTHER FLASHING SIGNS UNTIL BLACKSTONE STREET WHERE THERE IS A LARGE LIGHTED ARROW. THERE WAS, FOR A WHILE, A LIGHTED SIGN THAT FLASHED: "\$100 FINE" "DO NOT GRIDLOCK" WHICH WAS PLACED NEAR KINNAIRD ST. ONLY IN APRIL OR MAY, BUT IS GONE NOW AND WAS PLACED ONLY AFTER I ASKED FOR SIGNS ADVISING DRIVERS TO AVOID WESTERN AVENUE. AT THAT TIME, A SIGN APPEARED ACROSS TOWN ON BROADWAY AND PROSPECT WARNING DRIVERS TO SEEK ALTERNATE ROUTES.

THUS, IT TOOK SEVERAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM A RESIDENT TO GET THE CONTRACTOR AND THE CITY TO DO THEIR JDB ON WARNING SIGNS, AND THIS WAS WELL INTO THE PROJECT. SUCH SIGNS SHOULD HAVE BEEN PART OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN FOR THE PROJECT, WHICH BEGAN ALMDST TWO YEARS AGD WITH THE UTILITIES PHASE DF THE PROJECT.

The contractor has also repainted crosswalk markings at the Kinnaid Street intersection. Additional crosswalk markings are scheduled for this week. >>>THE CONTRACTOR HAS PAINTED SOME NARROW LINES, SORT OF OUTLINES, AT KINNAIRD.. THAT WAS 3 DAYS AGO..... >>>THIS IS AFTER MY ASKING FOR THIS TO BE DONE MONTHS AGO AND BEING TOLD BY CITY STAFFERS THAT IT WILL BE DONE RIGHT AWAY. WELL, IT WASN'T. THIS IS NOT THE ONLY PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK THAT HAS BEEN "ERASED" BY THEIR DIGGING AND PATCHING. WELL, MAYBE THE CONTRACTOR WILL BUY SOME WHITE PAINT TOMORRDW AND PAINT A REGULATION PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK DESIGNATION.

In order to alert motorists to be alert to the beginning of construction, six variable message boards were posted in and around the project stating "Western Ave Construction. 2 Years. Expect Delays." ACTUALLY, THERE IS ONLY THE ONE AT GREEN STREET WHICH FLASHES: "WESTERN AVENUE CONSTRUCTION" ... "EXPECT DELAYS" ... "SEEK ALTERNATE ROUTES" (SEE ABOVE ALSO.) PRIOR TO THAT, THERE WERE ONLY TWD MORE, BUT THEY ARE GONE, THERE WERE NEVER SIX VARIABLE MESSAGE BOARDS. I HAVE PHOTOS.

The City also installed eight bulletin boards along the avenue and at nearby parks to better inform residents and pedestrians about construction. These continue to be updated on a monthly basis. The overall goal of the static signage and the variable message boards is to alert drivers of the construction, encourage them to drive at appropriate speeds and yield to pedestrians.

In addition to these efforts, city staff are committed to engaging with the neighborhood to ensure we are hearing directly from people most impacted by this construction. City staff attended the May 9, 2013 Riverside Neighborhood Association meeting and hosted a very well attended Western Avenue neighborhood cookout on

May 21, 2013 to provide an opportunity for residents to learn more about the project, ask questions, express concerns and meet the project team. We look forward to continuing this type of outreach throughout the construction project. I EXPRESSED MY CONCERN AT BOTH EVENTS AND GOT EVASIVE ANSWERS OR THE COLD SHOULDER. IT IS UNFORTUNATE, BUT TRUE. NO ONE WANTED TO ADDRESS MY QUESTION ABOUT THE CORRECT, D.O.T-APPROVED YIELD-TO-PEDESTRIAN SIGNS. SPEAKING ABOUT IT AT THE MAY 9TH MEETING PRODUCED NO RESULTS AND AT THE MAY 21 COOKOUT, AS I SAID ABOVE, I GOT NO STRAIGHT-FORWARD ANSWER AND ONLY COLD STARES.

Thanks again for your commitment to these issues and please let me know if you have any additional questions or concerns. The City appreciates feedback from residents and will continue to closely monitor traffic patterns throughout construction, and modify the traffic controls along Western Avenue as construction progresses. THE RESIDENTS GIVE FEEDBACK, BUT THE CITY DOES NOT GIVE BACK. IT IS ONLY BECAUSE I HAVE PERSISTED IN THE LAST 6 MONTHS IN MY EFFORTS TO MAKE WESTERN AVENUE AND RIVER STREET SAFE FOR RESIDENTS, THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS EVENING'S CITY COUNCIL AGENDA, AND THE PETITION OF 192 RESIDENTS HAS BEEN

ENTERED INTO THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

THERE IS NO ENFORCEMENT OF THE SPEED LIMIT ON RIVER AND WESTERN NO MATTER WHAT THE SPEED LIMIT IS, WHETHER 20 OR 25 MPH. SINCE THE 20 MPH SIGNS WENT UP ABOUT 2 MONTHS AGO, THERE HAS BEEN NO ENFORCEMENT THAT ANYONE HAS OBSERVED. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO EXCEED 20 MPH ON THE WHOLE LENGTH OF WESTERN AVE. AT THIS POINT IN TIME. ALSO, TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICERS WITH RADAR GUNS WERE COMMON ON WESTERN AVENUE UNTIL ABOUT 4 YEARS AGO. THERE WERE FLASHING SIGNS ON BOTH RIVER AND WESTERN WARNING DRIVERS OF THE 25 MPH LIMIT.

Thanks,  
Kathy

THANK YOU,  
CAROLYN

**From:** Carolyn [<mailto:mc.shiple@verizon.net>]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 23, 2013 12:37 PM

**To:** [riversidena@yahoogroups.com](mailto:riversidena@yahoogroups.com); [visioncentralsquare@googlegroups.com](mailto:visioncentralsquare@googlegroups.com); City Council; Reeves, Ken; vanBeuzekom, Minka; Watkins, Kathy; Clippinger, Sue; Davis, Henrietta

**Subject:** Crosswalk at Kinnaird St.

After months, say from about January 2013, of asking that the contractor repaint the crossing stripes (in Europe they call them

zebra crossings) on the pedestrian crosswalks that they obliterate by their digging and patching, you will see today some guiding lines

painted on the Kinnaird St. ped. crossing that will be filled in probably tomorrow. Who knows? Just in time for the city council hearing!

This may be because our petition is finally before the city council tomorrow. Please show up and show your support.

Thanks to Lawrence Adkins for getting on this and thanks to whoever in the city listened to him.

However, it has been six months of asking the folks at DPW and CDD to do something. Meanwhile, the barrel with the

Yield to Pedestrians sign on it at Kinnaird is now a beat up, battered mess and is sitting on the left side of the road turned away

from traffic. The city refuses to buy the highway dept. approved crossing signs. Attached.

Carolyn

The other pedestrian crossings are not being painted, I guess. I have a number of complaints about this contractor.