



Allenby Daycare Inc.

February 4, 2020

Attention: NYCC Clerk

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CC: Caroline Duffy

Outreach and Policy Assistant
Office of City Councillor Mike Colle
Ward 8, Eglinton-Lawrence
email: councillor_colle8@toronto.ca

Re: NY13.12, Parking Amendments - St. Clements Avenue

On behalf of Allenby Daycare, the board of directors is writing to provide feedback in response to the proposed parking amendments on St. Clements Avenue along the property of Allenby Junior Public School.

We thank you for your efforts to make our school zone safer. Although a great deal of community consultation has taken place with various stakeholders, it appears the circumstances of Daycare families has been overlooked.

The Daycare operates from 7:30am to 6:00pm. Families need to have the option to drop off and pick up children in a car from 7:30am-8:30am and 5:00-6:00pm since not everyone can walk 100% of the time. Most cars are driven by working parents trying to get to and from work on time, and the street is not busy at these times.

Our families bring children as young as 15 months to the centre and often have younger siblings in tow, aged 0-15 months. If there's no parking or standing allowed on either side of the street in the morning and significantly fewer spaces available in the evening, parents and caregivers with (multiple) young children – especially those carrying infants in heavy car seats – will struggle.

Families with older children can't simply drop off and pick up outside without entering the school since government regulations (and therefore Daycare policy) require that all children in a childcare facility be signed in and out daily by a parent or guardian.

If the proposed recommendations “to rescind the existing parking regulations on the south side of St. Clements Avenue, between Avenue Road and a point 170 metres west, and replace them with a standing prohibition in effect from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday” are implemented, the parking rules would need to change on the north side to accommodate parked cars without permits earlier than 8:30am. (This should change regardless, as Daycare staff arrive at 7:00am with nowhere to park). It seems unfair and unnecessary to force families and staff to walk long distances, particularly in inclement weather, when this will not solve the safety issues.

The proposed standing prohibition aims to “promote safe and efficient two-way traffic and enhance the student pick-up/drop-off activity on St. Clements Avenue in the vicinity of Allenby Public School”. However, we believe these changes would not have the desired effect. It’s not realistic for all families to walk and those who commute by car will continue to do so, resulting in the blocks east and west of the school becoming more congested and less safe as drivers search for limited parking spaces.

Our preferred approach to improving safety around the school is to enforce the traffic signs that are already in place, and focus on school – not Daycare – drop-off and pick-up hours when it’s extremely busy with cars and pedestrians (8:30am-9:10am and 3:00pm-3:40pm). For example, most drivers regularly ignore the multiple ‘no U-turn’ signs around the school as well as the signs prohibiting through-traffic and left turns onto Avenue road from Castlefield.

We recognize there’s a balance to be struck between cost and effectiveness. While it may be cheaper to change the signs, enforcement of existing rules would likely be more effective and would not punish Daycare families who drive.

Thank you for taking our feedback into consideration.



David Zeegen
Chair, Allenby Daycare Inc