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November 23, 2022

Toronto and East York Community Council
100 Queen Street W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Placement of a Temporary Crossing Guard at the Intersection of Benson and Hendrick Ave

Dear Chair and Members,

I am writing to respectfully request the placement of a temporary school crossing guard at the Intersection of Benson and Hendrick Ave beyond December 2022. Sometime last year, a driver hit a 3-year old McMurrich student, while driving a car at the intersection of Benson and Hendrick Avenues. This incident brought to light serious safety flaws at that particular intersection, and around the school zone in general. My office has been working with traffic operations staff, the School Council, and the Police over parking and other design changes. A top immediate priority identified was the placement of a school crossing guard at Benson and Hendrick.

However, Active Traffic management staff informed my office a few months ago that the location is not warranted as per a technical analysis conducted, and that the guard will be withdrawn at the end of December 2022. Due to continued concerns around safety at this intersection by the School Community, I am requesting an override of the technical analysis to keep the guard in place until our work with Traffic Operations and the Capital Projects group toward parking and other design changes is completed. So far, we are almost finalizing parking changes to address the safety concerns and staff have begun initial discussions toward design improvements. We anticipate these should be completed within a year.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Toronto East York Community Council:

1. Override the technical analysis and authorize the placement of a temporary School Crossing Guard at the intersection of Benson Ave and Hendrick Ave beyond December 2022 for one year.

Sincerely,

Councillor Josh Matlow
City Councillor
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