

Patrick Craft

From: Pat Craft <patcraft@windermere.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2015 9:14 AM
To: Patrick Craft
Subject: Establish Right Of Way Control for 32nd Avenue West & West Raye Street in Magnolia
As a former Seattle Police (civilian-employed) Crossing Guard and assigned to this very intersection for duration of assignment until budget shortfall, (replacing anothe

To: Pat Craft
Cc: Bob Thelen

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This is a letter is in response to continued traffic concerns over existing dangerous situations at the above mentioned intersection. As a former Seattle Police (civilian-employed) Crossing Guard and assigned to this very intersection for duration of assignment until budget shortfall, (replacing another police crossing guard that was actually struck by a car at this intersection!) I was trained and uniformed along with another fellow guard and routine patrol car unit with radar, we established "adult-only" crossing guard crosswalks, one of which being West Raye and 32nd West! (the worst of all 3 crosswalks despite all being problematic! At one point, it was ordered that West Smith and 34th West was closed as a designated school crosswalk because the dangers it contained, that is why you have amber lights set only for 34th West and West Raye crosswalk if you were curious why not entire block designated as a school zone. The city has experimented with signage but idea of mid-block crosswalks with encroached curbing (bring out closer to street) have been disregarded despite better visibility and safer results! In my two years as a guard, we saw drunk drivers, moms racing kids to drop off to get to coffee shops, and illegal u-turns to add to speeders and distracted drivers!

To add, when I was met by with former Mayor Paul Schell and the Seattle Police at my post on 34th Avenue West and West Raye for a P.R. event, I raised issue about crosswalk dangers at Our Lady of Fatima with 34th Ave West and West Barrett, and told him how SDOT wanted to put in median strips with trees which I argued would make it harder to see pedestrians! I showed the Mayor a photo I took of a police cruiser that had been struck by a car making a left turn at that intersection on a SUNDAY and he could not believe that it actually happened! Two weeks later the Mayor gave me four stop signs and a 4-way flasher light and has improved the safety at this intersection tremendously! For the record, residents and myself spent 2 years meeting with SDOT and the police on making that intersection safe and ended up a Mayor seeing my photo that convinced the city to make the improvements!

And so we are still dealing with these dangerous crosswalks STILL in 2015! Please consider improving right of way control at 32nd Avenue West And West Raye Street to prevent any further harm to all.

Thank you for your concern!

Bob Thelen
ps; Magnolia News did some published reports on this very subject as well back in 2000!