

**CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware**

**TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
June 19, 2007
3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Capt. John Potts, Roy Lopata, Lt. Susan Poley, Tom Sciulli, Rich Lapointe, Tom Parkins, Pat Fogg (for Susan Lamblack), Dave Gula, Rick Vitelli.

Absent: Carol Houck

Guests: Dennis Washington, Pilgrim Baptist Church
Joseph Murphy, Pilgrim Baptist Church
James Crain, Pilgrim Baptist Church
James Davis, Pilgrim Baptist Church
Abraham Gest, Pilgrim Baptist Church

**1. REVIEW REQUEST FOR A CROSSWALK AND CAUTION LIGHT ON
BARKSDALE ROAD AT PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH.**

At the May Traffic Committee meeting, the members reviewed a request from representatives of Pilgrim Baptist Church on Barksdale Road for a crosswalk and caution light at the Church entrance. The request was initiated because of the congestion created by cars parking on both sides of the road, pedestrian traffic crossing the road to enter the Church, and the speed of vehicles. The members agreed that more information was needed and tabled the request and asked the Police Department for traffic counts, speed survey and accident history.

Lt. Poley presented a traffic analysis, which indicated that the average speed on Barksdale Road is 37 mph. The speed limit on Barksdale Road is 35 mph going into the City, and 40 mph leaving the City. The traffic counts were less on Saturdays and Sundays, with Sunday having less traffic than Saturday. There have been no accidents from January 2006 to the present at the Church or at the intersection of Barksdale Road and Rahway Drive. Lt. Poley said there is an occasional speeding vehicle, usually late at night or very early in the morning, so there basically is no speeding problem on Barksdale Road. She said although DelDOT opposes mid-block crosswalks, there is one at the Newark Day Nursery. Traffic cones are also set at the crosswalk during the day. She suggested asking DelDOT to consider doing the same for the Church. Mr. Lapointe said that DelDOT installed the crosswalk there when Newark Charter School was on Barksdale Road.

Mr. Vitelli said that he was on St. James Church Road last Sunday where a church is located, and tall, orange traffic cones with flashing lights and signs

stating “Caution – Crosswalk during Church Service” were placed in front of the church.

Dennis Washington of Pilgrim Baptist Church said that the congregation would like to have a warning signal or crosswalk because of the safety issue for pedestrians. Mr. Lopata said that the problem is that people exit their vehicles and cross at various locations along Barksdale Road. A designated crosswalk would provide one location where everyone could cross. Mr. Parkins said there is a mid-block crosswalk for a church on Marrows Road. Mr. Gula said that DeIDOT did mid-block crosswalks at one time but they prefer not to do it anymore. The Traffic Committee would have to refer the matter to DeIDOT since Barksdale Road is maintained by the State. Mr. Washington said the congregation would like the crosswalk at the driveway entrance. He said that the members do use the parking lot at Barksdale Park during the winter months but in the summer and fall, the parking lots are generally in use.

MOTION BY ROY LOPATA, SECONDED BY DAVID GULA, TO REQUEST THAT DELDOT CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF A MID-BLOCK CROSSWALK ALIGNED WITH THE PILGRIM BAPTIST CHURCH PARKING LOT TO FACILITATE PEDESTRIANS CROSSING BARKSDALE ROAD TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 TO 0.

Lt. Poley advised Mr. Washington that the police officers are often hired off duty to help various organizations with traffic direction. Mr. Washington said the Church might be interested in doing this for special events, and Lt. Poley provided him with her contact information.

The guests thanked the Traffic Committee and left the meeting.

2. REQUEST FOR STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF AYLESBORO ROAD AND WITHERSPOON LANE.

Mr. Lopata said the initial request for a stop sign at Aylesboro and Farnsworth was erroneous and that Council Member Jerry Clifton’s request was for a stop sign on the south side of Aylesboro Road at Witherspoon Lane. Capt. Potts indicated that this same request was reviewed in 2000. The Traffic Committee denied because it was determined that speed was not an issue and there was a clear line of sight at the intersection. Mr. Lopata was in favor of the stop sign at that time and said that he would like to again recommend that the stop sign be installed.

MOTION BY ROY LOPATA, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE, TO INSTALL A STOP SIGN ON WITHERSPOON LANE AT THE INTERSECTION OF AYLESBORO ROAD.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 8 TO 1.

AYE: Capt. Potts, Lt. Poley, Rich Lapointe, Rick Vitelli, Pat Fogg, David Gula, Roy Lopata, Tom Sciulli.

NAY: Tom Parkins

3. REQUEST FOR SPEED BUMPS IN WHITE CHAPEL

Capt. Potts received a request from a resident of White Chapel who stated that he had a petition signed by a number of residents requesting speed bumps in White Chapel. Capt. Potts said that the City has been opposed to speed bumps in the past because of the damage they cause to snow removal equipment, and the fire company has also expressed their opposition to speed bumps.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY ROY LOPATA, TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR SPEED BUMPS IN WHITE CHAPEL.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 TO 0.

4. REQUEST FOR HANIDCAPPED PARKING SPACE AT 85 DALLAS AVENUE.

Lt. Poley said that the resident of 85 Dallas Avenue has provided a physician's letter stating that she is physically handicapped and is in need of a designated handicapped parking space in front of her residence.

MOTION BY RICH LAPOINTE, SECONDED BY DAVID GULA, TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY MANAGER THAT THE PARKING SPACE AT 85 DALLAS AVENUE BE DESIGNATED AS HANDICAPPED PARKING.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 TO 0.

5. QUESTION CONCERNING TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT WEST PARK PLACE AND ORCHARD ROAD AND ELKTON ROAD AT CASHO MILL ROAD.

Mr. Lapointe said that a resident called him to suggest that the traffic signal at West Park Place and Orchard Road be placed on "flash" during the summer months. Mr. Vitelli said the traffic signal on West Park Place at Orchard Road is maintained by the state and that they had changed all the controllers. The signal does change frequently. Capt. Potts suggested that this be tabled until the Traffic Committee can review the accident history at this intersection.

The same resident also questioned why the traffic signal for northbound traffic on Elkton Road at Casho Mill Road occasionally turns red when there is no need to stop traffic in that direction. Mr. Lopata said that only happens if the traffic signal malfunctions or the pedestrian crossing button is activated.

6. OBSTRUCTION OF TRAFFIC SIGNS.

Mr. Parkins had photos to show that there is shrubbery obscuring traffic signs on Woodlawn Avenue at Kirkwood Highway and Stafford Avenue and Hawthorne Drive. Mr. Lapointe made note of the locations and will handle this matter.

There being no further business, Capt. Potts called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY ROY LOPATA, SECONDED BY RICK VITELLI, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 9 TO 0.

Capt. John J. Potts