

October 19, 2023

Dear committee members, city officials and fellow Atlantic Beach residents,

Thank you for the opportunity for my thoughts and concerns to be addressed this evening. I chose not to take the time this evening to appear in person for several reasons. One, both of my children are involved in extracurricular activities and finding an open weeknight to attend a meeting is difficult. Another reason is that I feel like it has been a waste of time in the past to sit through a meeting. You see, I have come to meetings. I have dragged my kids to meetings because my husband works evenings. I have set time away from my family I am advocating for to come to meetings and speak. But unfortunately, it seems to all have been a huge waste of time. There have been no changes.

My point has to do with the speed at which anything is getting done with this management. Our plea for safety measures on our street has fallen on deaf ears again. I first reached out on the issue in 2017. That is five years of working to get real results for my neighbors and I. Five years of watching dangerous drivers with no regard for human life tear down our street. Five years of close calls for my neighbors and I while we try to play outside with our kids. The police department has record showing there is an issue, although most reports following data collection seem to be written in such a way they are inferring there is not "enough" of an issue. Any one speeder coming close to my child is enough of an issue. I think any parent in this room will tell you that. We were told we would see Speed Tables installed last summer. Then it was this fall. Now it is early next year. Forgive me but I will not be holding my breath on this. I know things take time to get done. I understand that bids and engineers' diagrams are needed and whatever behind the scenes that is above my knowledge also happens. But this timeline is unacceptable. Now all of the sudden the topic of having a bike path installed which would remove our ability for street parking is being revisited with no further mention of speed tables being installed. I can tell you with 100% certainty, if a speeder is racing down the street wants to speed, they're still going to speed next to a bike lane just like they speed next to 14 kids playing near the street. If I was this incompetent at my job, I would have been fired a long time ago.

Just as importantly, I wish to share my displeasure for the lack of recognition the Marsh Oaks and west Atlantic Beach community gets as a whole. In the most recent report by a committee member, attached to this evening's agenda, Marsh Oaks was not mentioned a single time. It is as if we do not exist at all to this committee. The entire city needs to be recognized and fairly represented by this committee that discusses such important topics such as the safety of *all* children, pedestrians and bikers of all districts within city lines, not just those certain members deem as important enough to comment on or take the time to research. Otherwise, it's like yet another aspect of my life is being decided on and affected by yet another group of upper-class men with no intention of familiarizing themselves with the actual topic at hand as it relates to me and my family.

Thank you for your time. I know I have certainly spent ample time on this myself. If you would like to discuss my thoughts further, I am most easily reached via email at
PNottingham09@gmail.com.

Kindest regards,

Patricia Nottingham
Concerned Mother & Main Street Resident