

Clifton  
Journal

12/11/15

Councilman Bill Gibson and the Mayor voted against sidewalks with Councilman Steven Hatala not voting due to absence.

Mayor James Anzaldi in voicing his objection said it best - he could not vote to give something to one street which every other homeowner and taxpayer has paid for. He said any resident on Dwasline was free to install sidewalks at their own expense and questioned why none has. He also was surprised to hear there was money left over from the road repaving bond and asked why then residents of Woodlawn and Harrington Road were told there was not enough money to fix the rest of the curbing on these streets.

In the history of Clifton, nothing has been done on a street without the consent of its property owners. Dwasline property owners were blindsided by this vote. Installing sidewalks on Dwasline is unfair to all the other streets where there are no sidewalks especially where residents have asked for sidewalks and been denied. Residents who recently replaced existing their sidewalks are also being disadvantaged and should receive reimbursement from the city for their expense.

In April 2014, Clifton spent \$26,000 for a study about Dwasline which was sent to the traffic safety committee for its recommendations. The report suggested "short-term solutions which are a direct result of public input based on feasible traffic engineering solutions" and suggested "from a traffic engineering perspective recommended the short-term package and then gauge the effectiveness in terms of speed and vehicle reduction a year later." The traffic safety committee unanimously voted in favor of these measures. The "package of short-term improvements consisted of: left-turn prohibition at Allwood Road; installation of speed tables (minimum of 3); crosswalks and guidelines; street lighting improvements;

reduce speed limit to 25 mph; and where possible create safe areas for pedestrians as an auxiliary item." Neglia estimated the cost of these improvements between \$25,000 and \$35,000. Other than improved lighting none of these measures were ever enacted.

The measures were endorsed and continue to be endorsed by all Dwasline property owners who had objected to sidewalks. If anyone is truly interested in safety how and why would they object to these measures? Why were they not implemented immediately?

The installation of sidewalks will not solve the speeding issue that exists on this road nor improve the vehicular circulation traffic. The Neglia report cautioned, "the City's policy makers will need the Wisdom of Solomon to implement the best blend of circulation improvements to Dwasline Road." Obviously, these four council people did not read either the Neglia or traffic safety reports and were lacking the Wisdom of Solomon.

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**City Council  
makes bad decision**

The residents of Clifton depend on all seven council representatives to do what is fair and just for all the residents. They do not expect that a Council member will fulfill a campaign promise to a special interest group merely because of an endorsement. This is exactly what happened at the Dec 1 meeting where four council people Joseph Kolodziej, Lauren Murphy, Peter Eagler and Ray Grabowski, out of the blue voted to install sidewalks on Dwasline.