

Erin M. Egan
5181 Watson Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016

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September 5, 2006

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ms. Carol Mitten, Chair
District of Columbia Office of Zoning
441 4th Street, NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia

Re: Case #05-42 (Sibley Hospital)

CASE NO. 05-42
EXHIBIT NO. 64

Dear Ms. Mitten:

My husband and I are writing to express our concerns with the proposed Sibley Hospital expansion. We live on Watson Street, which runs directly parallel to Loughboro Road and intersects with MacArthur Boulevard (to the west) and both Palisade Lane and Maud Street (to the east). Over the past few years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of cars using Watson Street to avoid the traffic (and traffic lights) on MacArthur Boulevard and Loughboro Road. We are deeply concerned that this traffic will only increase if Sibley Hospital expands to include a medical office building.

Earlier this summer, the residents of Watson Street wrote to the ANC voicing our frustration with the amount (and speed) of existing "cut through" traffic on Watson Street and requesting, among other things, that the ANC and the Department of Transportation analyze the impact of the proposed Sibley expansion on neighborhood traffic, particularly as it pertains to cut-through traffic. I am attaching a copy of this letter, dated June 7, 2006, which contains over 25 signatures.

As we understand, a specific study of neighborhood traffic has yet to be commissioned. That said, the trip generation information published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers strongly indicates that traffic on Watson Street would rise if the Sibley medical office building were to become a reality. Specifically, the Institute of Transportation Engineers projects 1200-1300 more car trips per day on MacArthur Boulevard in DC. Drivers already use Watson Street to avoid the backup at the traffic signal at the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Loughboro Road. With over 1200 more cars expected on this side of MacArthur Boulevard, we can surely expect more cars to use our little street to avoid this traffic.

This is a safety issue. The drivers using Watson Street as a commuter crossroad typically drive at speeds above 25/mph (in our opinion, even 25/mph is too fast in light of the curved nature of our street, which makes it difficult to see what lies ahead). This combination of cars driving too quickly and the low visibility is very dangerous. Indeed,

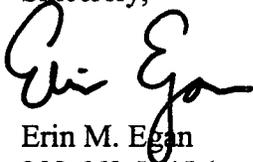
ZONING COMMISSION
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last year, a girl who lives on our street was almost hit by a car speeding up Watson Street from MacArthur Boulevard.

In our June 7 letter, the residents of Watson Street requested that the city prohibit drivers from turning onto Watson Street from MacArthur Boulevard during the morning and evening rush hours and that speed bumps be installed on our street to slow drivers down. If Sibley expands, these requests may need to expand as well (to include, for example, an all-day prohibition on non-local traffic from MacArthur Boulevard). But, at some point, the traffic just becomes too much for the neighborhood to bear. My husband and I very much appreciate Sibley Hospital, but we believe that the traffic resulting from its new medical office building would quickly lead us to this unbearable point.

We very much appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at either of the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Egan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Egan" clearly distinguishable.

Erin M. Egan
202.662.5145 (work)
202.966.1188 (home)

June 7, 2006

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Rachel Thompson
ANC 3D 04 (Kent/Palisade)
P.O. Box 40846
Palisade Station
Washington D.C. 20016

Re: Traffic Issues on Watson Street; Impact of Sibley Expansion

Dear Rachel:

As Kent residents living on Watson Street, we are extremely frustrated by the number of cars that currently use our street to avoid the traffic (and traffic lights) on MacArthur Boulevard and Loughboro Road. With the proposed Sibley Hospital expansion expected to increase traffic on both of these streets, we are very concerned that the number of drivers using Watson Street as a commuter crossroad will rise. For these reasons, we are writing to request that:

- (1) The city prohibit non-local drivers from turning onto Watson Street from both MacArthur Blvd. and Palisade Lane during morning and evening rush hours;
- (2) The city install speed bumps on Watson Street to ensure drivers do not drive too fast up and down our street; and
- (3) The ANC and Department of Transportation consider the impact of the proposed Sibley Hospital expansion on the level of traffic in the Kent neighborhood.

As background, Watson Street runs directly parallel to Loughboro Road and intersects with MacArthur Boulevard (to the west) and both Palisade Lane and Maud Street (to the east). Both Palisade Lane and Maud Street, in turn, intersect with Loughboro Road. Throughout the day – and certainly during the morning and evening rush hours when cars have been seen coming and going every few minutes – drivers take Watson Street from MacArthur Boulevard to gain quicker access both to Loughboro Road/Nebraska Avenue and to Dalecarlia Parkway. They also drive down Watson Street coming from Loughboro Road to obtain quicker access to MacArthur Boulevard. Quicker access is obtained in both directions because commuters can avoid the traffic signals at (1) the entrance to Sibley Hospital on Loughboro Road and (2) the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Loughboro Road. Many of these cars are driving much faster than the posted 25mph – and, in our opinion, 25mph is too fast in light of the curved nature of our street, which makes it difficult to see what lies ahead. We believe an audit of the traffic patterns on Watson Street will confirm the above.

This Watson Street “cut through” disrupts the daily life of the families who live on the street. We typically struggle to get into our vehicles while avoiding the cars that drive up and down the road. And our children are constantly in harms way when they play in our front yards. Indeed, we believe it is only a matter of time before a cut-through commuter car either hits a

Rachel Thompson
 Re: Traffic Issues on Watson Street
 June 7, 2006
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parked car or an individual as it races up or down our narrow street. Prohibiting traffic during certain peak hours of the day and installing speed bumps will help deter commuters from using the street as a commuter crossroad and ensure that cut-through commuters drive at a reasonable speed. We also believe police patrol and monitoring of Watson Street traffic should be increased so action can be taken against those drivers who, despite these measures, continue to cut through and drive too fast.

The proposed Sibley hospital expansion, which by all accounts will increase the traffic on both MacArthur Boulevard and Loughboro Road, could substantially increase the number of cars using Watson Street as a commuter crossroad. And it may have a similar impact on other streets in the Kent neighborhood. For this reason, we also urge the ANC and Department of Transportation to analyze the impact of the Sibley expansion on neighborhood traffic, particularly as it pertains to cut-through traffic.

We appreciate your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

The following residents of Watson Street:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Street Address</u>
Eric Egan / Borzo Biabani	5181 Watson Street
Jacqueline Steele	5193 Watson Street
Salab Brakini & Family	5197 Watson Street, NW
Glint Shaw	5215 Watson St. NW
Michael Woodhain LU	5188 WATSON ST, NW
ng Snape III	5268 Watson St, NW
DSZ	5268 Watson St. NW
B.E. Mure	5265 Watson St. NW
Judy and Jack Regg	5230 Watson St NW
Debbi Miller	5244 Watson St, NW
KATE MEEK	5256 WATSON ST, NW

JIB MEEK	5256 WATSON ST NW
Cheri Sheeran	5262 Watson St, NW
Judith M. Sheeran	5262 Watson Street NW
Maura	5265 Watson St NW
Theresa Madmaster King	5295 Watson St NW
Tara Guzman	5174 Watson St NW
Morgan P. Young	5187 Watson St. N.W.
Scott Taylor	5111 Watson St NW
Earl W. Jettell	5117 Watson St NW
Michael + Ana Cashin	5126 Watson St. NW
Robin	5250 Watson St NW
Susanna McBee	5190 Watson St. NW.
Paul Kocer	5190 WATSON ST., NW
Susan Straw	5161 Watson St, NW
AURIE OSELAN	5175 WATSON ST, NW
ADAM WYDEN	5115 WATSON ST, NW
Bruce Babbitt	5169 WATSON ST. NW



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