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Subject: Item 12.1.1 Sep 10/18 Council Meeting -- Street Safety and Neighbourhood Speed Limits -- C2018-0960
Date: September 9, 2018 at 8:43 PM
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Mayor and Councillors

The Richmond/Knob Hill Community Association (“RKHCA”) would very much like to see Richmond/Knob Hill (“RKH”) become a highly walkable community. When it comes to walkability, RKH has some really good “bones” — it is bordered by the 17 AV SW and 33/34 AV SW Main Streets — its streets are primarily laid out in a grid pattern, with relatively short blocks — it is a laned community with few front driveway crossings. Despite these good “bones”, and despite its inner-city location, RKH continues to be primarily a car-dependent community. RKHCA has been working hard for many years to reduce this car dependency and to build upon these good “bones” by, among other things, embracing respectful redevelopment and densification, opposing new or widened front driveways, lobbying for well-designed SWBRT stations, pushing for public realm enhancements on the 17 AV SW and 33/34 AV SW Main Streets, and finding creative ways to get more street trees planted in our community.

Unfortunately, all of these efforts to reduce car-dependency and increase walkability mean nothing if our residents don’t feel safe walking, running, and riding bikes in our community.

Unlike some of Calgary's newer residential communities, RKH tends not to suffer from the issue of having overly wide residential streets that are clearly designed for speeds well in excess of 30kph. In fact, it is often difficult for oncoming cars to pass each other on our residential streets unless one or the other is able to pull over into a gap between parked cars. Despite these constraints, some drivers feel that it is appropriate to drive along our narrow, parked car-lined residential streets at 50kph, a speed at which vulnerable road users are unlikely to survive being hit, not because that speed feels appropriate for the street, but rather because it is legal for them to do so. In other words, by assigning a speed limit of 50kph to our narrow, parked car-lined residential streets, the City is encouraging drivers to drive along those streets at unsafe speeds.

Please support our efforts to help RKH become a highly walkable community by approving the captioned Notice of Motion to reduce the speed limit on Calgary’s residential streets to 30kph. Our residents (at least the non-Type A ones) will thank you!

Thank you.

Richmond/Knob Hill Community Association