

Richard A. Abdo

Chairman of the Board and CEO, Retired
Wisconsin Energy Corporation

June 1, 2009

Mr. Robert J. Bauman
4th District Alderman
Milwaukee City Hall, Rm. 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Bauman:

I am writing this letter to make you aware of a potentially dangerous situation at the new Amtrak station on 5th Street and St. Paul Avenue. This past Wednesday my wife and I were traveling to Chicago via Amtrak. It was raining so I pulled up to the front door to drop her and the baggage off and almost ran over some pedestrians in the north-south crosswalk that goes straight into the train station. After parking the car and walking into the train station, I noticed, while waiting for the train, that pedestrians in the same crosswalk were almost hit three other times in the short time we were waiting.

The problem arises because vehicles are parked parallel to St. Paul Avenue on both sides of the drive in front of the train station, and there are no signs identifying the crosswalk so you end up actually being in the crosswalk before you are able to see a pedestrian in the crosswalk. The situation was amplified on Wednesday because it was raining and the pedestrians with their baggage were in a hurry.

I would be happy to meet with you and show you what I mean if that would be helpful; but, a couple of signs that identify a crosswalk or pedestrian crossing that are high enough that they would be visible above the roofs of the parked cars might prevent a future pedestrian accident. If I can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,



C: Walter J. Kunicki

Bauman, Robert

From: Keller, Barbara J - Milwaukee, WI [barbara.j.keller@usps.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10:41 AM
To: Bauman, Robert
Subject: Speeders on St. Paul Ave don't yield

Alderman Baumann,

I spoke with someone at your office this morning about the dangerous conditions for pedestrians at the intersection of 4th Street and St. Paul Ave., near the Main Post Office. She kindly transferred me to a City Engineer, and I also spoke with Dave Schlabowske, Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. To follow up, I would like to request a police presence to monitor speeders and drivers who do not yield to pedestrians.

There is more than one issue that makes it very dangerous to cross the street.

After the completion of road construction last year, our crosswalk was not repainted. We have signs on the sides of the street, but drivers ignore them. Some drivers actually speed up and blow their horns when pedestrians try to walk. It is very evident drivers in this area have no regard for pedestrians, and that they need to be made aware that their cars do not always have the right of way. Dave Schlabowske checked and found that a city engineer forgot to include repainting our crosswalk into last year's contract for the road construction in this area. We are on a list to have our crosswalk painted sometime this year. Unfortunately, the attitudes of drivers most likely won't change even with a painted crosswalk, and since no one enforces the law, drivers have no reason to slow down unless they hit someone.

The second issue is speeding. Drivers speed on a regular basis going both Eastbound and Westbound on St. Paul Ave. Yet the only time we see a police car is after an accident has occurred. Drivers go up to 50 mph on a regular basis, and have no regard for pedestrians. It is hazardous not only to my fellow coworkers, but also to residents who are often elderly or handicapped. For this reason, I would like you to request a police presence in this area to ticket speeders as well as drivers who do not yield to pedestrians. Even if they can be here for only a few days, they might be able to ticket some of those who are daily offenders.

In closing, I would like to add that I am not only an employee who works in this city. I have been a resident of Milwaukee since 1984. I am a property owner, and I have chosen to live and work in the city. It is very disheartening to know that something as basic as this has been ignored for such a long even though so many of my fellow employees have contacted the city repeatedly. I personally have had some very close calls with speeding motorists, and I have been very shaken by the experiences. This morning, again, a speeding car that was at least 1 ½ blocks away when I began to cross actually sped up and came within inches of me. I feel as if my life is not valued by those who are supposed to represent me in this city. If this is the case, please know that I am a single mother who is very much valued by my son, and I would be sorely missed if my life were taken or if I became handicapped simply because I was trying to cross the street to go to work. My heart is still racing 2 ½ hours after this last close call. Every day someone else has the same experience, at the intersection of 4th Street and St. Paul Avenue. Please request a police presence.

I appreciate your attention.

6/17/2009

Barbara Keller

Small Business Specialist

United States Postal Service

414-287-2547

fax 414-287-2599