



**MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Luis A. Báez (Tony), Ph.D., Director**  
Milwaukee Board of School Directors, District 6  
1425 S. 10th St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 550-4283 • Fax (414) 475-8071

[baezla@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:baezla@milwaukee.k12.wi.us) • [mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us](http://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us)

December 22, 2017

Members of the Public Safety Committee  
Milwaukee Common Council  
City of Milwaukee, City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to go on record in support of the request by Alderman Robert Donovan of the 8<sup>th</sup> District to place a four-stop sign at the corner of 31<sup>st</sup> and Burnham.

I am the elected school board member of the Milwaukee Public Schools, representing District #6, which includes this location. In numerous conversations with parents from ALBA school and residents, it was brought to my attention that the heavy traffic on Burnham in that vicinity makes it extremely difficult and a major risk for the children and parents who need to cross the street to attend school or use the Burnham park facilities and services. On several occasions, I have personally experienced great difficulty crossing the street in that vicinity.

Early in the summer of 2017, I called the Department of Public Works about this issue. I was informed that a study would be conducted to determine the need for a stop sign. In June 27, 2017, I received a letter providing the results of such a study. Its result did not support the request. I later spoke with parents and residents who still insisted that the heavy traffic and congestions caused by the parking of clients in the restaurant on the corner of 31<sup>th</sup> and Burnham had to be factored into the consideration of placing a stop sign. They stressed that traffic from east-west on Burnham did not see pedestrians and children attempting to cross because of the park cars, and would not slow down or stop. They also told me of elderly individuals or "abuelitas" at risk of an accident when taking children to school or the park, because of the traffic. It is my understanding that last year as many as 250-300 parents signed a petition sent to Alderman Donovan's office on this matter, but the issue was never resolved to their satisfaction.

The MPS Department of Recreation and Community Services has been working during the past year with the school, Burnham Park officials and other resident organizations in the transformation of the ALBA/Carmen playground and the park's facilities. The goal has been to beautify the area and convert it into a public space that offers more and new healthy and athletic opportunities to children and other residents. An architectural firm has been meeting with the parents and residents for these purposes. Funds have been allocated for improvements, and work will begin very soon. In addition, together with others, the MPS Department of Recreation and Community Services has opened an Ice Ring at Burnham Park. These new and forthcoming services will make the park a more inviting space for residents. The school will surely develop more activities for children and parents during the day and early evening.

With consideration to the above, I urge you to place a four-way stop sign as indicated above. We cannot allow a situation that puts at risk children and their parents and residents because of the heavy traffic in this vicinity.

Thanks very much,

Luis "Tony" Báez, PhD  
School District #6, MPS Board Director

***Start. Stay. Succeed.***  
***Comienza. Quédate. Triunfa.***