

Appendix V – Testimonial from Village Resident Rose Powers

Safety in Speed Humps

Traffic Concerns in Garden City

When we decided to put our roots down in Garden City, we saw a beautiful community to call home and raise our children, and maybe where they would then decide to raise theirs one day. Beautiful streets, welcoming neighbors, and an abundance of parks & schools were of course selling points, but what I remember most about standing on the porch of the open house that would soon become our home was the children riding their bikes, joggers, and happy dogs being walked along those tree lined streets. It felt like home.

Of course, the neighbors are still wonderful, and the trees are as green as ever this spring, but the difference I see today is the safety of the children on bicycles, joggers with headphones, and pedestrians walking dogs. Tanners Pond often serves as a through-way from Denton Avenue to Stewart Avenue, for those coming from Jericho Turnpike looking to cross town and avoid the traffic/stoplights on Nassau Boulevard. With that traffic comes drivers racing through stop signs and driving dangerously with little care they are in a residential neighborhood. In the summer of 2022 while walking my son in his bassinet I shouted for a car to slow down after they ran a stop sign, worried for the kids on bikes ahead. The car then swerved at the curb near the sidewalk we were standing on in a rage. Scary, to say the least.

It was that moment I knew something had to be done. Of course, my first thought was more police presence, and why not since it would generate revenue. Almost a year later I now understand that enforcement via police presence only fixes the issue when they are visible and sitting there, once they depart it is as if they never existed. The speeding and dangerous driving happens at all times of the day, starting with shift workers speeding to their jobs at 6am and the racing sounds can easily be heard coming from the bridge into Garden City until the late hours of the night. The police have done a wonderful job here on Tanners Pond, but they are sadly not a solution. There is already an abundance of stop signs on Tanners Pond, they are sadly not the solution either.

My Experience with Speed Humps

This brought me to speed humps and wondering if they were something the neighborhood had considered in the past. Two of the houses I lived in growing up had speed humps, the first being a residential road full of families that used to have traffic concerns due to the location of a grocery store at the corner, parents pushed to install them prior to us moving there. Then our next home where we lived for most of my youth served as a cut through to avoid lights on the main drag and did not have speed humps when we bought the home. My mother brought the neighborhood together to bring the solution of speed humps to the table, and soon there they were.

What once was a busy cut through turned into the quiet residential street it was intended to be. It took the traffic a few months to fully divert, specifically for those who didn't use the road daily but ad hoc then realized it was no longer feasible to do so. The sight of the speed humps was not an eyesore, but instead a warning to those who often made poor decisions without families within sight. We never saw an accident due to the humps, outside of some kids getting a little too brazen with their jumps on their bicycles. There were never any vibrations within our home from the humps, and the overall noise decreased as box trucks and race cars were no longer using the road. The only complaints came from

low profile cars who lived on the street, but if they went slow, they were very much able to avoid any damage to their expensive vehicles.

The traffic slowed tremendously, there were no longer speeding vehicles, and the street became a safe place for the entire community. Parents could breathe a sigh of relief while kids rode to and from the park down our stretch of street. I urge us as a community to want the same sense of safety and peace. We know stop signs do not slow speeding or traffic volumes. We know police are unable to enforce the laws at all times of the day. Speed humps offer a solution to both of those serious issues.

Property Values

Lastly, regarding property values I spoke to a few of the top producing realtors that cover the Cleveland, Ohio suburbs. I use Ohio as a reference since speed humps are much more common there, so they represent a future state as speed humps become more prevalent in Long Island. Barbara Wilson, Howard Hanna, stated buyers with families look at speed humps as a positive, specifically in residential neighborhoods. The exceptions are gated communities, where esthetics take priority and there are no little to no issues. Garden City is a town full of families, often people looking to purchase homes are those with children and would often find the safety speed humps bring over other concerns like esthetics.

Thank you for your time, and I hope we continue to consider speed humps as a solution to the safety concerns that the current traffic is causing.

Best,

Rose Powers *and family*
Tanners Pond Road