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From: Micheal WARD>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Poitras, Andrew >
Subject: Plebiscite on Residential Speed Reduction

Good afternoon Mr. Poitras,

I'm writing in regards to information received from Councillor Nason, about the plebiscite on whether, or not, to reduce the maximum speed limit in residential areas of Winnipeg.

First some background. I spent almost 20 years conducting traffic (speed) enforcement in, and around Winnipeg. I worked major roadways and residential street, issuing probably thousands of speed related Summons. While part of what was then a Community Support Unit within the Winnipeg Police, I focussed on community complaints related to traffic issues, with the majority related to speed infractions.

In my experience I found many residents were mistaking regular vehicle speeds as "excessive". Unfortunately the average person's perception of speed can be somewhat exaggerated. When I received complaint of speed I would attend the area as soon as possible and conduct speed enforcement activities. From personal observation I can say unequivocally that what was reported, was not necessarily what occurred. And these were not one time actions. I made great efforts to attend a reporting areas often, at different times of day, to ensure a good representation on the situation.

That being said, again from my experience, reducing the speed limits in residential areas is unnecessary. I found a very small percentage of violators, much less than the public perceived and reported.

The current speed limit of 50 KPH is reasonable, if drivers adhere to that speed. Problems do arise from drivers exceeding that limit, and I would rather see more police presence, than a reduced speed limit. I have lived on the same residential street (feeder) in east Winnipeg for over 20 years and have seen a marked increase in traffic volumes. I'd estimate less than 5% of vehicles passing our house are over the speed limit, and less than 1% are grossly exceeding the speed limit.

Though it would be great if all drivers followed all the traffic laws, but that's is truly a pipe dream.....but I can also relate that driver frustration, leading to acts of "road rage" is a real issue. And vehicles creeping along on any roads causes frustration and reducing already appropriate speeds will only inflate that frustration.

I speak from real world experience, both in urban, and rural settings. I would definitely be against any reduction in residential speed limits.

I understand that some statements may be entered into the public record. If authorization is required, then I hereby give my permission to enter this statement.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.
Respectfully
Cst M. B. (Mike) Ward #2041 Winnipeg Police Service "Retired"
A/Chief Cst Springfield Police Service #021 Cst Ste Anne Police Service