

## **Phillips E-Democracy Forum: Safety Issues on 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Street**

Posted response by William Bryant on October 12, 2012

Thanks to all for a good discussion on this important topic. Yes - something certainly needs to be done to make the crossing at the intersection of 11th Avenue South and East 26th Street, by Stewart Park, much safer.

For our 11th Block Club, we have been concerned about the speed of the cars on East 26th street as they pass by the Park. It has become a very fast One-Way Raceway at times.

The new Soccer Field is a huge success. But with that success has come more pedestrian traffic that attend those games and other activities, which are independent and are not associated with any Andersen School activities. Usually in the evenings and on weekends.

We would like to see a Pedestrian Crosswalk at that intersection, with green striped lines and flashing green lights, to draw attention to drivers to slow down as they pass the park. There should be more street signs indicating that there is a School and Playground Area ahead. We also welcome a Bike Lane and any other ideas to help calm down the traffic as it passes by Stewart Park. Our Council Member, Gary Schiff, has expressed support for these ideas and has stated that he will do his part to initiate measures for changes to improve this dangerous situation.

On Sunday evening, September 30th, a little 4-year old boy named Jose Manuel Rodriguez was attending a soccer game with family and friends at Stewart Park. Apparently, the little boy ran out into traffic on East 26th Street, chasing after a ball and was struck by a car. He died the following day as a result of his injuries. A Walking Vigil is planned for this Sunday, October 14th, at 2 PM. A copy of that flyer is attached for more information (both in Spanish and English). Please attend if you can.

We acknowledge that these measures may not have saved the life of that little 4-year old boy. That answer is unknown to us. The Police have stated that speed was not a factor, nor were there any drugs or alcohol involved in this case. However, we do know that cars will travel at the speed limit of 30 MPH and even faster to past thru the stoplights posted at 12th and 10th Avenues.

But had there been a flashing Pedestrian Crosswalk, School Crossing Signs, Park & Playground Area Ahead sign, or even a Bike Lane, it is possible that this driver and future drivers, will then need to slow down and pay attention to this busy area, to watch out for people crossing and children playing around the park area.

Let's unite as a Community to find working solutions to this problem. That will be our lasting tribute to the Rodriguez family in memory of their little 4-year boy, Jose Manuel.

William E. Bryant, Member  
11th Avenue Block Club