

DC Police Union

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November 20, 2023

VIA E-MAIL

Councilmember Matt Frumin
DC Council
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 408, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: *Opposition to the Creation of Protected Bike Lanes along Connecticut Ave NW*

Dear Councilmember Frumin,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Chairman of the DC Police Union, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed creation of protected bike lanes along Connecticut Avenue NW. While we recognize the importance of promoting alternative modes of transportation and ensuring the safety of all road users, we believe that the implementation of protected bike lanes in this particular location would have significant adverse effects on public safety and law enforcement activities.

Firstly, our concern lies with the potential impact on traffic flow. Bike lanes, especially protected ones, can restrict the overall flow of traffic, leading to congestion and an increased risk of accidents. The reduction in available road space may result in frustrated drivers, more frequent lane changes, and an elevated likelihood of rear-end collisions. We fear that such changes to the road infrastructure could exacerbate traffic-related incidents rather than improve safety.

Moreover, our officers have expressed concerns about the potential hindrance of police response times that may result from the creation of protected bike lanes. In emergency situations, every second counts, and any impediment to our ability to swiftly navigate through the city can have serious consequences for public safety. It is crucial that our officers can respond rapidly and efficiently to emergencies without unnecessary obstacles that could be introduced by the proposed bike lanes.

Additionally, we are worried about the potential limitations that protected bike lanes may impose on the access of emergency vehicles to various neighborhoods along Connecticut Avenue NW. The ability to navigate freely through the city is essential for emergency services, and any encumbrance to this access could jeopardize our ability to provide timely assistance to those in need.

While we understand the importance of promoting alternative transportation methods and creating a more sustainable urban environment, we believe that the proposed protected bike lanes along Connecticut Avenue NW may inadvertently compromise public safety and hinder law enforcement efforts. We respectfully request that the City Council reconsider this proposal and engage in a comprehensive dialogue with law enforcement professionals to address these concerns and explore alternative solutions that prioritize both safety and sustainability.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on finding solutions that benefit the entire community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Pemberton', is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Pemberton
Chairman
D.C. Police Union
FOP/MPD