

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Deborah Nystrom
2842 Hawks Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

Dr. Mandy Grewal
Pittsfield Charter Township Supervisor
6201 W. Michigan Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Dear Dr. Mandy Grewal,

We are writing in support of the latest proposed street lights initiative for the Washtenaw Heights/ Oak Park neighborhood. Below are statements from the neighbors in the Carpenter School Neighbors Facebook group that currently has over 300 members, as of this writing. It is a private Facebook group that focuses on neighbor news.

As signified by posts on our Facebook page and through others means, names listed below indicate neighborhood residents who support the 2021 lighting project. I have documentation to show this support which can be produced if needed. Below are also some comments and suggestions from residents, showing engagement. For example:

Resident, Erin Perry: “My family has lived on Oakdale Drive, just a few blocks from Carpenter Elementary, since July 2017. Considering just the kids/students, dog walkers, and bus users alone, there is a great need for a safe pedestrian environment in our community...add to that the desire for many people to be able to be out past sunset and hopefully reduce or deter criminal activity in the overnight hours. This past November I witnessed the vehicle-pedestrian accident on Packard at Dalton that resulted in the tragic loss of two of our community members. That evening was especially dark due to added clouds, and I vividly remember being frustrated having to drive in that level of darkness...I couldn't imagine being on foot.

I truly believe that the presence of street lights and brighter/longer crosswalk signals would dramatically increase the safety of both pedestrians and drivers who want or need to be out after dark. Thank you for your consideration in pushing forward safety measures that benefit the greater good. “

Also, just yesterday as we were wrapping up the endorsement process for this letter, a neighbor wrote, “A while ago I almost didn't see a darkly clothed pedestrian crossing Seminole on Packard at night when I was turning onto Seminole against oncoming traffic. It wasn't that close a call, as I was going slowly, but it startled me!”

The deaths of two elderly neighbors while crossing the street this past year deeply affected many of us. Safety is important, including when children go back to school when it is still dark in the morning. For these and other reasons, it is likely that there is good support in the neighborhood, besides the names indicated below. Several

neighbors reached out to other neighbors in very cold weather to get names listed here. The pandemic has affected our ability to reach out to everyone. In spite of this, these neighbors have indicated support for the lighting project as of the date of this letter 2021:

1. Mike and Valerie Alexander
2. Kathleen Ardan and Tanju Ardan
3. Lind Babcock
4. Kat & James Bergman
5. David and Diana Boudrie
6. Sarah Brish
7. Heather Brumwell
8. Tim and Emily Carlson
9. Bryan Castillo
10. Krissy Craft-Buchanan
11. Emily and Jason Darow
12. Michael Drumm
13. Ed and Vicky Dziubinski
14. Nipa Ehmann
15. Clark and Vera Felk-Spraetz
16. Tracy Fischer and Chris Meono
17. Devin and Mark Fredrickson
18. Glenda Gordon
19. Eric and Ela Hammond
20. David Keeney and Sophia Hanifi
21. Said Hannouchi and Mouna Mana
22. Nicole Harris
23. Avery Hartsock
24. Timothy & Nancy Hurley
25. Carl and Kristina Jackson
26. Donna Kulseth Karr and Karl Karr
27. Jess and Sally Kauffman
28. Marguerite and Richard Kett
29. Beth and Troy Kuzma
30. Robert LaMoreaux
31. Amber Lisowicz and Andy Cook
32. Jamie and David MacLaren
33. Bill Marino
34. Angie and Adam Martin-Schwarze
35. Amber Shawn Massimino
36. David McCarley
37. Jim McNaughton
38. Amanda Mitchell Gebhardt
39. Bryce and Sherry Moffett
40. Ann and Darren Mitchell
41. Sheila Murphy
42. Gary and Deborah Nystrom
43. Lawrence O'Leary and Susan O'Leary
44. Patrick and Laura O'Leary
45. Kathy Owens
46. Jeffrey and Kannika Parks
47. Sonya Pepin and Jason Pepin
48. John and Erin Perry
49. Rick and Debbie P. Phillips
50. Judith Pontius
51. George and Denise Ralph
52. Doug Rauser, Ginger Rauser
53. Manojit and Rakhi Roy
54. Paul Rozek and Sandy Rozek
55. Joe and Lorraine Rusnak
56. Eliot Scott and Felicia Farrar-Scott
57. Casey Scott
58. Janet Silver
59. Jennifer Simoneau
60. David and Stacy Stewart
61. Jangharn (John) Su
62. Terri and Sharon Sweeny
63. Christine Taylor
64. Richard and Kathleen Taylor
65. Carol Ullmann and Matt McLane
66. Aubrey Thomason and Ben Van Houweling
67. Marie Vitale
68. Julie Walstra and Jennifer Hein
69. Patti and Ralph Walkley
70. Laura and Andrew Ward
71. Colin White and Bethany Ponichter
72. Leslie Wilkins
73. Heather Willingham
74. Beste Windes
75. Dan and Julie Winningham
76. Fouzaan Zafar & Samiah Haque

Additional comments, from neighborhood residents, in favor of the proposal with commentary.

Resident, Kathy Owens: "...willing to sign the letter. I was hit by a car last year before sunrise on Washtenaw so I know how dark it is on our streets.[area where she was hit by a car] ...it's not

exactly where the lights are going ...it will help keep the area lit and that is important.

...When we are back to in-person school: I know the middle schoolers walk to the bus stop in the dark most mornings and the high schoolers catch the bus on Washtenaw to Huron super early. One more reason we need lights. Especially on the streets without sidewalks."

Resident, Ann Mitchell: "In regard to the recent car larcenies that occurred a few weeks ago in our neighborhood, it would have been easier to see which way the suspect ran when getting to the end of my street had if we had a street light so we could tell police which way he went. The fact there was zero light on my street meant I had no idea after he got about two houses down. In addition, it is possible that the larcenies would be discouraged with better lighting in the first place."

(Lighting comments, suggestions)

Resident, Robert LaMoreaux: "3 lights at the intersection of Central and Grant seems excessive ...the one on the southeast corner makes sense. The one on the Northeast corner is too close to the other. Adding the one just south a hundred feet and on the west side of Grant becomes too many. Probably more sensible to move the one on the Northeast corner across Grant and farther north.

Resident, Bill Marino: "Along the same lines as Robert's comment — they have the short blocks north of Central slated for the same number of lamps as the long blocks to the south. It seems to me that there are either going to be very bright areas or areas with a lot of shadows."

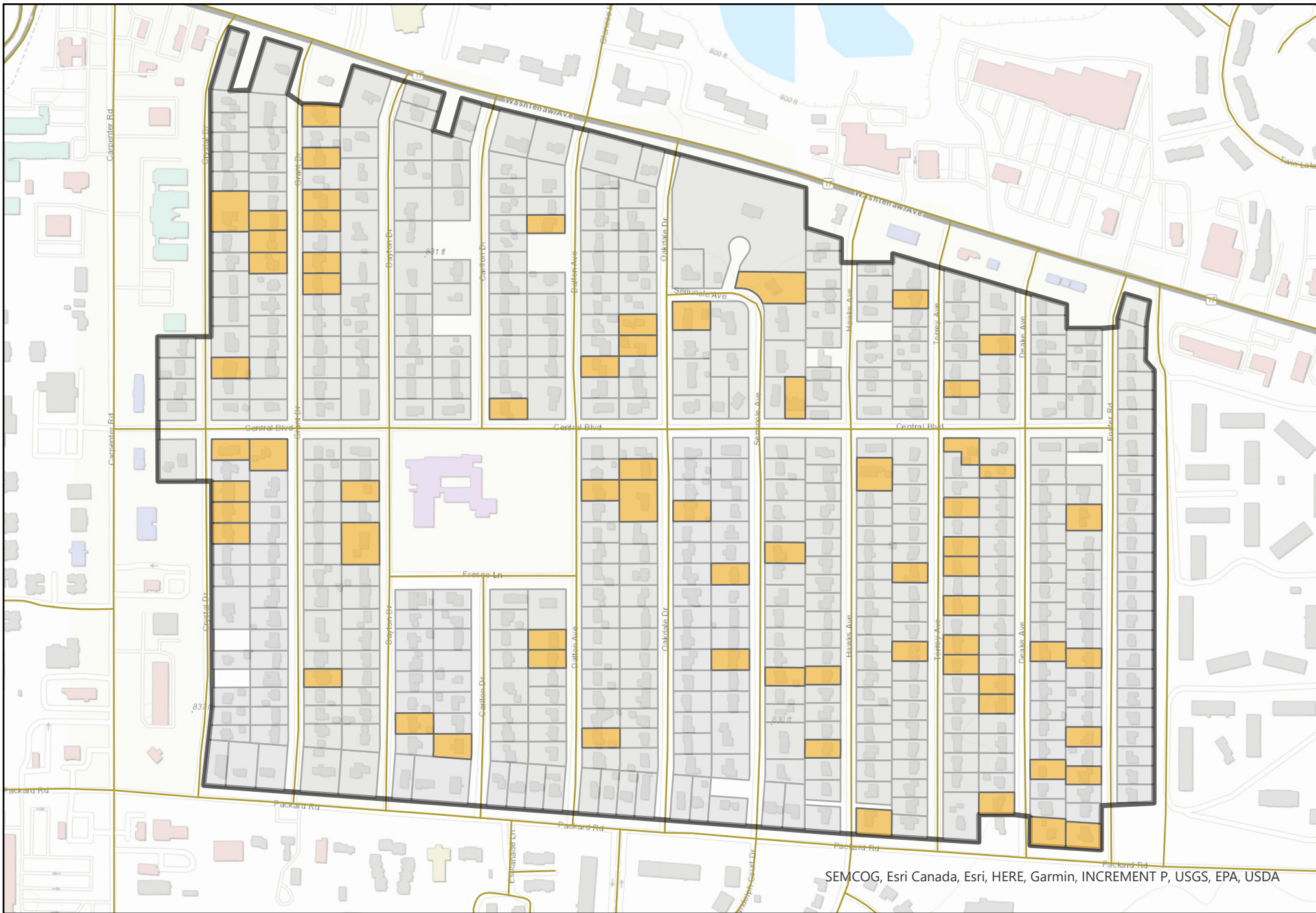
Resident, Mary Henning: I think motion sensors would allow people to have lighting when moving in the area, but not light all the time. I think that would be a good option in the neighborhoods, as you get away from main streets.

We hope this letter conveys our sincere interest in this initiative. We did not pursue a Zoom call to discuss the issue further as residents have already contacted you individually or we've handled questions on our Facebook neighborhood page with followup from your staff. We look forward to hearing back from you and the Board of Trustees regarding the status of approval to move forward.

Sincerely,



Deborah Nystrom
Administrator for the Carpenter School Neighbors Facebook Group



Pittsfield Charter Township

Community Development

Washtenaw Heights

68 Addresses in Support
(12.5%)

544 Residential Parcels

Washtenaw Heights /
Oak Park Boundary

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

