

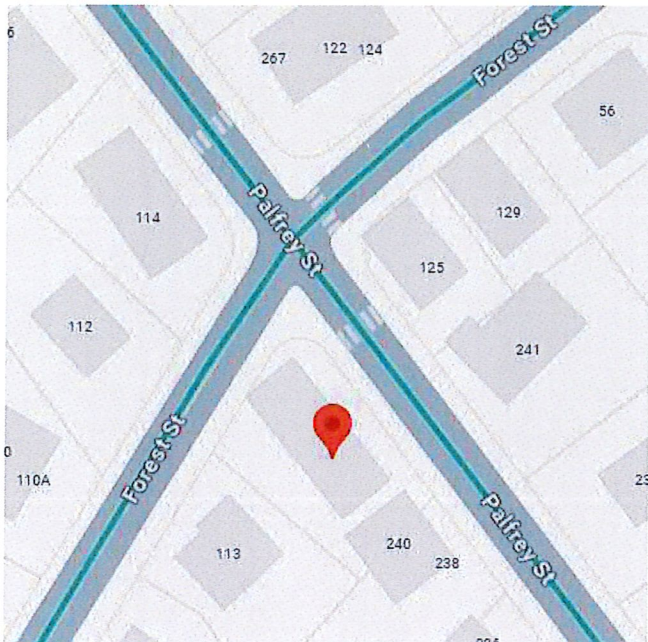
Sampson, David

From: Ken Reyes <reyes726@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 9:27 AM
To: Sampson, David
Subject: No Parking Question

Dear Officer Sampson,

I wasn't sure where to direct my question so please let me know the correct contact so that I can contact them directly.

I live on the corner of Palfrey St and Forest. If you're driving east on Forest up to the Palfrey intersection, there is a stop sign. However, it's very difficult to see oncoming cars driving downhill toward Waverly Ave. especially if there are cars parked along the curb up the street from the crosswalk, which is near the corner. At the risk of losing some street parking, would it be possible to do a study to determine if "no parking from here to corner" can be installed? Cars coming down Palfrey are usually going very fast and you have to pretty much drive into the middle of the intersection to see if there is oncoming traffic. Thanks for the consideration and for any info.



Sincerely,
Ken Reyes
244 Palfrey Street

Forest Street Northbound



Palfrey Street Eastbound



Palfrey Street Westbound



Sampson, David

To: Sampson, David
Subject: RE: Speeding Concerns (still) on Fayette Street

From: Sampson, David
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 7:18 AM
To: Kelly Kurlbaum <kkurlbaum@gmail.com>
Cc: Ryan Kurlbaum <rkurlbaum@gmail.com>; Magoon, Steve <smagoon@watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: RE: Speeding Concerns (still) on Fayette Street

Good morning Ms. Kurlbaum,

Thank you for your email and for your time yesterday. The phone reception was spotty, so I just want to pass on some additional information.

In terms of the electronic speed feedback sign, I know you're skeptical but the equipment does help raise driver's awareness and slow vehicle speeds. Current data from the sign (since April 11th) revealed that the 85th Percentile Speed on Fayette Street westbound is 26.8 mph. This means that 85% of vehicles are traveling at or below 26.8 mph. Although your overall speeds are reasonable, you also have vehicles traveling at very high speeds on the street.

I reviewed the three crashes that you referenced and spoke to the officers that investigated them - Speed was not a factor in any of the crashes. Causes included fatigue, distraction, and miscalculation following an impeded view of the roadway. Interestingly, 2 of the 3 crashes involved residents of Fayette Street.

I recently received two other concerns from Fayette Street residents. I am going to submit your request for traffic calming measures to the Traffic Commission, and I will also include the other concerns for the Commission's review.

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday May 28th at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Administration Building (149 Main Street) in the Council Chambers. You are not required to attend, but I encourage you to do so. If you cannot make the meeting, Mr. Kurlbaum or another interested party is welcome to attend.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email or by phone (617-972-6547). Thank you.

Respectfully,
Sgt. D. Sampson

From: Kelly Kurlbaum <kkurlbaum@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2025 7:35 AM
To: Sampson, David <dsampson@police.watertown-ma.gov>

Cc: Ryan Kurlbaum <rkurlbaum@gmail.com>; Magoon, Steve <smagoon@watertown-ma.gov>

Subject: Speeding Concerns (still) on Fayette Street

Dear Sergeant Sampson,

Good morning, and thank you for your time in reading this email. I know this is not the first, or second time, I've reached out regarding speeding concerns on Fayette Street. Last night there was yet another accident, this time a flipped vehicle one door down from my property.

As you're aware, there is a speed monitor currently sitting on our street - which I don't believe is effective in slowing traffic, obviously. As you may recall, one was also placed last summer after you and I spoke following another accident when someone hit a pole directly across the street from me. And just a few months ago in February, there was yet another incident of a vehicle hitting a pole further down the street who had to be towed due to severity of damage.

I have to ask, what will it take to finally have something done to slow drivers? I have two kids and my 10 year old frequently walks our dog down Fayette and walks to/from school. In addition, we see heavy pedestrian traffic of middle and high schoolers walking up and down Fayette to our nearby schools.

Fayette is a wide street with no curb and level, asphalt sidewalks. Cars frequently park on the sidewalk not only blocking access, forcing us to walk on the street but it maintains the wide street further encouraging speeding.

Jeff Speck, a renowned traffic planner, who is currently working on the Watertown Main Street redevelopment plan said it best - narrowing roads by installing curbs, forcing cars to park on the street naturally slows traffic.

If the city is never going to give us proper curbs (which feels highly likely) then I am asking once again to please consider installing traffic calming devices such as speed bumps along Fayette Street. We have heard a stop sign is being installed at Fayette and Forest but it's not enough - it still leaves a long run of flat, wide road used as a Main Street cut through. I understand there are other streets in question but I honestly do not know why we continue to hesitate. Your speed signs may suggest speeding is not an issue (I disagree, I see and hear it frequently) but clearly there is an issue and last thing I want is either my house (due to short setback from street and level sidewalk) being struck or my kids (or drivers) being injured.

Therefore I ask that you, along with the traffic commission, strongly consider reviewing Fayette Street and install measures to slow our street. I am certain my fellow neighbors agree as it has been a frequent topic of discussion and concern.

I have cc'd Steve Magoon due to his oversight of DPW and involvement in the Traffic Commission.

Thank you very much!

Kelly Kurlbaum
152 Fayette Street



Sampson, David

To: Sampson, David
Subject: RE: Speeding on Fayette St

From: Sampson, David
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 7:27 AM
To: Liz Marino <emarino1021@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Speeding on Fayette St

Good morning Ms. Marino,

Thank you for your email. Your request must be reviewed by the Watertown Traffic Commission. I recently received two other concerns from Fayette Street residents. I am going to submit your request to the Commission, and I will also include the other concerns for the Commission's review.

The next Traffic Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday May 28th at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held in the Administration Building (149 Main Street) in the Council Chambers. You are not required to attend, but I encourage you to do so. If you cannot make the meeting, another interested family member or Fayette Street resident can attend.

In terms of the electronic speed feedback sign, we plan to relocate it to capture eastbound vehicle speeds and volume – This should occur in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phone (617-972-6547). Thank you.

Respectfully,
Sgt. D. Sampson

From: Liz Marino <emarino1021@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 1:04 PM
To: Sampson, David <dsampson@police.watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Speeding on Fayette St

Dear Sgt. Sampson,

I am a resident living at 181 Fayette St, one block away from the intersection of Fayette and Waverley streets. I work from home, and am constantly hearing cars take off from the top of Fayette and speed down the street. I have heard two just while writing this sentence. It seems even worse at night- they literally wake me up. I'm sure you are aware that we recently had a car go so fast on the wet road that it flipped over.

I am curious how we can go about receiving traffic calming measures on this road, and am also wondering if the speed radar further down the road will be turned around to measure speeds of cars coming from Waverley. I was informed on a city zoom that we will be getting a 4-way stop at the intersection of Fayette and Forest streets, and am glad that it should cut down on crashes in front of my house. However I don't think it will solve the speeding issue, but rather simply delay it for one block.

I welcome you to park in front of my house, or even in my driveway, for a few hours after the sun has gone down to see how truly unsafe these drivers are. I worry for my kids' safety, and for that of all the kids who walk to WMS and WHS at Moxley, along with all other pedestrians.

I look forward to hearing how this problem might be solved.

Regards,
Liz Marino

Watertown Traffic Commission
Attn: Sgt. D. Sampson
552 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

16 May 2025

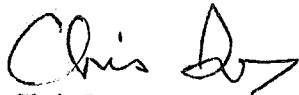
Dear Watertown Traffic Commission,

I am a Watertown resident and I am sending this letter as a formal request for a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign to be installed on the south (right) side of Oliver Street where it ends at Church Street.

I am requesting this because people often park on Oliver Street right up against the crosswalk at the stop sign there and thereby reduce visibility, making it hard to safely approach that intersection on Oliver Street and turn onto Church Street, as well as making it hard to safely turn onto Oliver Street from Church Street. Vehicles parked there also make it hard to see pedestrians entering the crosswalk when one is driving down Oliver Street and approaching the crosswalk.

Thank you for taking this request into consideration. I will try to attend your hearing on Wednesday, May 28th in case you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



Chris Ives
42 Oliver Street
Watertown, MA 02472

email cives@stonehill.edu

21 May 2025

Watertown Traffic Commission
Attn. Sgt. D. Sampson
555 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Watertown Traffic Commission:

I submit this communication as a formal request for consideration regarding two items.

- The installation of a speed bump on Church Street from the southwest corner of Marshall St. to the opposite sidewalk of Church St.
- The installation of a street-level light standard on the corner of Oliver and Church Sts.

I am a resident of Watertown and submit these requests in the interest of safety for both vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic.

It has been my experience, as I have attempted to exit Oliver St. onto Church St., to witness traffic from Common St. on Church St. that travels greater than 30 mph. Church St. curves and rises in this vicinity and drivers tend to accelerate. Due to the speed of such vehicles on Church Street (as well as lowered visibility from a new fence), drivers turning right from Church St. onto Oliver St. endanger pedestrians who are crossing Oliver St. A traffic speed bump on Church St. would, in my opinion, reduce the risk of vehicular and pedestrian accidents.

My request for the installation of an at street-level light standard is likewise submitted to reduce possible pedestrian-vehicular encounters. The current hanging electric light at this intersection does not illuminate sufficiently as foliage absorbs the light. Moreover, vehicles are regularly parked on both sides of the narrow entrance to Oliver St., thus blocking the view of left and right turning vehicle.

It is my intention to be present at the next Traffic Commission meeting, in order to answer any questions that the Commission may wish to put to me. I thank you for every consideration.

Sincerely

Clarence E. Butler
40 Oliver St.
Email: butler@hws.edu

Oliver Street at Church Street



Dear Watertown Traffic Commission,

My name is Jenny Gormley and I am a homeowner on Myrtle St, in Watertown, MA. I would like to bring attention to the different interactions around Pleasant St, Myrtle St, and Green St.

[Concern location 1] I have lived here for a few years now and almost every single day I cross Green St coming down Myrtle St and almost get hit by a speeding car. I have seen parents with strollers, people with dogs, runners, all having the same issue. Cars coming off of Pleasant St need to speed up to go up the slight hill on Myrtle St, and the curve of Pleasant St makes it hard for pedestrians to even see if there are cars coming until it is too late. I have had a lot of “close calls” recently as a pedestrian because of speeding drivers taking the turn too quickly.

[Concern location 2] I could stay on the right side of Myrtle St (when facing the river) and cross at the Myrtle St intersection, but the cross walk is too low and that would put me at risk for cars that quickly turn right and are unable to see me due to the curve of the street.

[Concern location 3] There is a similar issue for the crosswalk across Pleasant St – even with the walk signal on, cars take a quick right on red making it a precarious walking situation.

[Potential recommendation 1] I think a cross walk across Green St would help cars recognize that there is a possibility of a pedestrian and might help them slow down, or even a sign that reminds drivers to Slow - Sharp Corner.

[Potential recommendation 2] I think shifting the crosswalk further up Myrtle St by a few feet would allow pedestrians to cross more safely

[Potential recommendation 3] I don't know the best solution for this crosswalk. Even when it is time for pedestrians to cross, many cars will make the right turn because they cannot see the pedestrian standing on the sidewalk, waiting to cross.

Please see the image below for the following intersections mentioned above:

1. Green St crossing
2. Myrtle St crossing
3. Pleasant St crossing



Thank you,
Jenny Gormley

Pleasant Street Eastbound



Pleasant Street Facing Myrtle and Green Streets



Myrtle Street Southbound



Green Street Southbound



Sampson, David

From: Sampson, David
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:44 AM
To: stevemaggs5@gmail.com
Subject: Traffic Commission Information

Good morning Mr. Maggs,

I apologize for the delay. I understand that you have a curblin in front of your house that may be too short to accommodate a legal parking space, yet you find people parking there regularly. Please provide me with your address and the address of the home next door. I will be happy to assess the area and place your request for No Parking in that space on the May 28th Traffic Commission agenda. The meeting will be held in the Administration Building (149 Main Street) in the Council Chambers at 1:30pm. I understand this is short notice and you likely cannot attend the meeting. I am happy to provide the Commission your information for consideration.

Respectfully,
Sgt. D. Sampson

*Sergeant David Sampson
Watertown Police Department
Traffic Division
552 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
617-972-6547*

69 Boylston Street

