

CS-22-27

Jegateesan Ramasamy
<M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>
Oshawa, ON, <M.F.I.P.P.A Sec. 14(1)>
March 04, 2022

Mayor Dan Carter
City of Oshawa
2nd Floor, West Wing, City Hall
50 Centre Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

To Mayor Dan Carter:

Hope this email finds you well. My name is Jegateesan Ramasamy, and I am writing to you today on behalf of parents from the Northern Dancer Public School located in Windfield Farms.

As a concerned parent, amongst many others in the community, I would like to bring forth the issue of parking at Northern Dancer PS. The parking at the school is extremely limited and makes drop off and pick up extremely difficult for many families. Northern Dancer has been deemed as a “walking – distance”, as stated by the school as an explanation to the lack of parking. Due to the lack of parking, parents have been forced to park alongside the roads when picking up and dropping off their kids. Regardless of being deemed a “walking distance” school, there are many reasons why families may have the need to drive their kids to school. For my family personally, the walk to school is twenty minutes, which I find quite time consuming and tiring for three young kids to make right before a busy day at school. Aside from that, many parents, including myself, chose to drop our kids off and pick them up as we have work to get ready for as well. After speaking to many other families within the community, I’ve come to find out that many of them have infants at home that they do not feel comfortable walking outside in the cold harsh weather with amongst many other valid reasons. Throughout this winter, I have also come to notice that the sidewalks that our kids are expected to walk on their way to school is extremely dangerous as the snow is never fully plowed and is covered in ice. That is not a risk that I am willing to take on my kids. All in all, the families of this community have been finding a way to make the lack of parking work until recently.

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Recently, many families, including myself have been receiving tickets and fines sent to our homes for parking along the side streets while picking up our children. I would like to add that I have never seen a patrol officer walking around giving tickets to people, instead, pictures of our parked vehicles are being taken from a distance and mailed to our homes days later. This is unacceptable. We should not be receiving fines for parking our cars trying to pick up our children, especially when ample parking was never provided in the first place. Families have been receiving multiple tickets and it is now getting out of hand. We have been trying to find a solution to this issue for a while now, but unfortunately no one is able to provide us with any answers to resolve this. I believe that some solution should be provided to this ongoing issue and that hopefully you are able to help. Whether that be the parking tickets are waived for parents picking up and dropping off their kids or a school bus arrangement for kids to sign up for to get to school, something needs to be done. The parking space and layout for this school is not something we had a say in, and therefore we should not have to pay the price for it. I hope you are able to see the issue at hand. Thank you, and hope to hear back from you soon.

Thank you,

Jegateesan Ramasamy