

INTRODUCED: January 25, 2021

Expedited Consideration

A RESOLUTION No. 2021-R013

To express the Council’s support for the Department of Public Works’ recommendations for pedestrian safety enhancements at the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road.

Patrons – Mr. Jones, Ms. Trammell, Mayor Stoney and Ms. Larson

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: JAN 25 2021 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2020, Aajah Rosemond was fatally injured when struck by a vehicle at the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works issued certain recommendations for pedestrian safety enhancements at the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road set forth in the undated document entitled “German School Road at Jahnke Road,” a copy of which is attached to and made a part of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, in light of the fatal injury of Aajah Rosemond, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the city of Richmond that the Council support the

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: JAN 25 2021 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

aforementioned recommendations to enhance pedestrian safety at the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road;

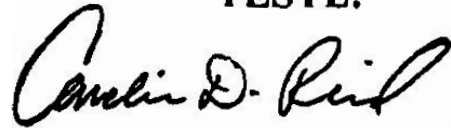
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the Council supports the Department of Public Works' recommendations for pedestrian safety enhancements at the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road set forth in the undated document entitled "German School Road at Jahnke Road," a copy of which is attached to and made a part of this resolution, to enhance pedestrian safety at the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

City Clerk



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Haskell Brown, Interim City Attorney

THROUGH Meghan Brown, Interim Council Chief of Staff

FROM Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst

COPY Michael Jones, 9th District Council Member
Reva Trammell, 8th District Council Member
Summer Morris, 9th District Liaison
Rick Bishop, 8th District Liaison
Tabrica Rentz, Interim Deputy City Attorney

DATE January 14, 2021

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TITLE Endorsing Safety Improvements at the Intersection of Jahnke Road and German School Road.

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Jones and Trammell

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Expedited

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Patrons request that legislation be drafted expressing Council’s support of safety recommendations in DPW’s study of the intersection Jahnke Road and German School Road.

Patrons have called for safety improvements in the intersection’s vicinity after in auto accident there led to the death of 16 year old Aajah Rosemond last October.

DPW Traffic Study Recommendations include:

- 1) use of grant monies from the Department of Motor Vehicles that would allow leasing

German School Road at Jahnke Road

Summary of Actions to Date

Over the past several years, DPW has installed the following safety countermeasures to improve the intersection of German School Road and Jahnke Road:

- High visibility crosswalks
- Pedestrian countdown signals with push buttons
- Adjusted pedestrian crossing times for all users
- Calculated and checked yellow and red clearance intervals
- 90 degree mast arms with signal heads positioned over each lane with backplates
- Accessible curb ramps to meet ADA requirements
- Lane control arrows
- Extended bike lanes on German School road
- Worked with developer of Westlake to include a complete street extension with sidewalks.

There are photos below that show the intersection in 2016 compared to the improvements shown in 2020.

Most recently, DPW resurfaced Jahnke Road and reduced the lane widths to better manage speeds and allow for the inclusion of bike lanes on Jahnke Road from Hioaks Road to Blakemore Road.

Further Recommendations

Future plans by RPD could include using newly passed legislation to levy \$50 speeding fines using photo speed cameras for vehicles going 11MPH or over the posted speed in school zones. Here is a list of five schools on the high injury street network:

- Westover Hills Elementary on Forest Hill Avenue and Jahnke road (25MPH)
- River City Middle School on Hull Street, Elkhardt Road, and Whitehead Road (35MPH to 25MPH)
- George Wythe High School on Midlothian Turnpike and Crutchfield Road (35MPH to 25MPH)
- Patrick Henry Elementary School on Forest Hill Avenue and Semmes Avenue (30MPH to 25MPH)
- Holton Elementary School on Hermitage Road and Laburnum Avenue (35MPH to 25MPH)

The City of Richmond has received notification over this past summer that we are the selected pilot city for the country to demonstrate an effective speed management pilot. We are currently working through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (grantee) and our partners at the Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA), the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS) and the National Roadway Safety Foundation (NRSF) on how to potentially deploy photo speed cameras in select school zones within the City limits. We are awaiting schools to return to in-person learning; hopefully, Fall 2021.

When schools are back in session, the photo speed camera deployment could be used in conjunction with RPD deploying their speed trailer for approximately two weeks to raise awareness of the speed limits in the area as well as their variable message signs to encourage safer behaviors.

Finally, an important shared use path, medians, turn lanes, sidewalks, pedestrian countdown signals will be constructed on Jahnke Road connecting Westover Hills Elementary School to Lucille Brown Middle School. Currently, the utilities are being relocated such that a contractor can make the improvements.

German School Road at Jahnke Road

2016



2020

