

Councillor sounds alarm about speed demons on Waverley West streets



By: [Joyanne Pursaga](#)

Posted: 04/27/2020 4:46 PM



Janice Lukes, councillor for Waverley West Ward, tweeted a picture of Corvettes lined up at the intersection of Kenaston Boulevard and North Town Road where she says an Audi was pulled over Friday in relation to her street racing concerns. (Supplied)

A Winnipeg city councillor says street racing is becoming far too common in Waverley West, after COVID-19 began reducing the amount of traffic in the paths of speeding drivers.

Coun. Janice Lukes (Waverley West), said warming temperatures are also enticing some people to bring out fancy cars and show off the speeds those vehicles can reach.

That's led many to travel at dangerously high speeds along Kenaston Boulevard, Bairdmore Boulevard and even some residential roads nearby, she said.

"I can see it's only going to get worse. And my concern is it's going to (result in) a serious accident. It's a life-or-death situation," said Lukes.

With playgrounds and sports fields closed due to the pandemic, the councillor said the high-speed travel is occurring just as people flock to residential roads on foot or by bike, since that's one of their few remaining options to get outdoors. Lukes said she's also seen many pedestrians step out onto roads, instead of remaining exclusively on sidewalks, to ensure they can be at least two metres apart from others.

"With more people on the street, with less cars on the street and more (drivers) feeling the ability (to drive) faster, this is a recipe for disaster," she said.

While she's been concerned with street racing in her ward before, Lukes said the problem is now much more common. The councillor said she received about three or four resident complaints about speeding, racing or cars doing "donuts" in parking lots each week last summer but now receives that many complaints each day.

Andrea Chow, chairperson of the Bridgwater Trails Neighbourhood Association, said she's also received plenty of complaints and personally witnessed vehicles speeding through the area.

"If you're doing the speed limit at 80 (km/h) and they pass you like you're standing still, they're going pretty fast," said Chow. "You hear them coming... and then they just fly past you."

Lukes said she personally witnessed an Audi get pulled over by police on Friday, while she spotted a line of Corvettes lined up at a stoplight just after the incident.

The councillor said police have often monitored the roads in question but she believes public education is needed to complement that effort.

Lukes said she's asked Manitoba Public Insurance do a one-minute commercial or public service announcement about the issue and requested that city council help advise drivers to slow down.

"There's more people on the street than ever before," she said. "Speed limits aren't changing, so people need to adhere to them," said Lukes.

Joyanne.pursaga@freepress.mb.ca

Twitter: @joyanne_pursaga