

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Request for Info about RSAC's Future Plans

From: [info@beep4bumps.com](mailto:info@beep4bumps.com)

Date: Sat, March 15, 2008 3:03 pm

To: Patricia Pinkham <[froggsnest@comcast.net](mailto:froggsnest@comcast.net)>

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Dear Ms. Pinkham,

I'm writing to ask you about the future plans of the Road Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC). My understanding is that your co-chairperson, Kathleen Bourassa, submitted her resignation from the committee at a recent meeting of the Greater Hansville Area Advisory Committee (GHAAC). Additionally, the GHAAC/Hansville Community Center website says no meetings are scheduled for March, April, or May. Is this true?

In light of Ms. Bourassa's resignation, do you intend to stay on the committee and serve as chairwoman? If you're looking to replace Ms. Bourassa, I'd be happy to submit a number of names for your consideration. I've met several people in the Hansville area who are profoundly interested in road safety. I'd be happy to serve on the committee myself, but my work and commuting schedule would not accommodate weekday evening meetings. I'm in Kent for part of the week since I work in Renton and don't commute out here on a daily basis. If, however, you restructure your committee to accommodate folks like me (and there are a lot of them), I'd be interested helping out on the committee - maybe to bring some balance. Many of us who strongly disagree with the speed bumps would like to see some fair representation on your committee.

To be honest, most people who are frequent visitors and contributors to my website -- [www.beep4bumps.com](http://www.beep4bumps.com) -- would most likely prefer to see the RSAC disbanded altogether since the group has created considerable anger in the community with its conflict-of-interest-laden speed bump process. Everyone in Hansville is aware of the fact that the committee and an opportunity, at taxpayer expense, to survey all Hansville area residents on the speed bump issue but opted not to. And everyone in Hansville is also aware that most committee members live where they were urging the bumps to be installed. Ms. Bourassa told me months ago that she didn't think that was a conflict of interest but I respectfully disagree.

My website has generated a level of interest that has far exceeded my expectations. I'm approaching nearly 5,000 unique visitors (by unique, I mean, the site does not count repeat visits). The readers of the site, as well as North Kitsap County residents who ask me about the speed bumps but who don't regularly visit the site, are asking me if I know what's next for the RSAC. So I'm writing this note to you on behalf of them.

The petitioners have made it very clear that they would like the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners to remove the bumps immediately. They really don't have an interest in re-hashing all of this. But if the committee insists that it wants to re-hash it, we will insist upon being participants, not observers, in that process.

I'll close this note with three requests. 1.) Please don't make this personal. I don't know you personally and I have no personal anger toward you. I have no reason to believe that your actions on the committee have been malicious and I'm sure you have the best interests of the community at heart. I simply don't agree with what the committee concluded and do not feel the committee should have been attempting to set public policy for Hansville area residents. I don't envy your role on this committee because I do think the committee has kicked a hornets nest by installing the speed bumps. 2.) I'd like, at this time, to make two public records request since RSAC is a county-endorsed official government entity and as such has an obligation to comply with open records and meetings laws. Please provide the full text of Ms. Bourassa's resignation letter. Also, please provide me with an attendance record/roster of committee members for the years 2005, 2006, and 2007. I'm told that some of the pro-bump committee members stopped attending meetings after the county voted to install them. This concerns me because one has to wonder if those individuals were only concerned about getting the bumps installed in front of their homes or if they had a genuine concern for traffic safety. To stop attending committee meetings after the bumps were voted in would suggest they had a personal agenda rather than a desire to serve the community. So I want the attendance records.

And 3.) I just got forwarded a copy of the GHAAC meeting minutes March 11 and in it, Ms. Bourassa's letter is extracted. It says:

(1) "After hours, weeks, and months of hard work on the research and implementation of our proposal for these devices, the County's scrutiny and public process and votes, we are now asked to spend countless hours more to go back over everything again and again." (2) "The level of vilification and harassment by a limited number of individuals seeking to discredit and bully us for our participation in this project." Kathy concluded by stating:

*"...the residents living where the speed tables are installed are not responsible for their installation, the speeders are. Our committee could find no other solution that would fit our roads, would be effective and be within a reasonable budget. Had there been no speed-related safety problems, the tables wouldn't be there. And they are working."*

This extract of her resignation letter raises some reasonable questions that must be addressed. I personally asked Ms. Bourassa back in October, 2007, to send me the research that was done to install the bumps. She said she would but then never did. I then had to make numerous public records requests of Kitsap County. The county's public information officer, Elizabeth Watkins, sent me stacks of papers but there was nothing contained within that would rise to the level of research. In fact, most of the data

the county sent me strongly supports the assertion I've been making all along. That the speed bumps were not needed and inappropriate for collector/arterial emergency response routes. And that speed studies did not reveal a significant speeding problem.

Furthermore, with regard to "speeders," you know as we all do that there were illegal 25-mpg signs posted on Hood Canal Dr. Measuring speed based on false speed limits will give you false results. The legal speed then was 35-mph and records showed that most drivers were at or very close to that with an occasional motorist going faster. This would be the case of any county road anywhere. And one hopes that the committee wouldn't have proposed speed bumps for ALL county roads. Additionally, Ms Bourassa's comments in a recent issue of the Kingston Community News about speeders contradicted county data collected for the same month -- May 2007 -- for which she refers.

Anyway, please respond as soon as you can so I can get the word out to readers of what your next steps are. Again, despite the controversial nature and often unpleasant nature of this topic, I have no ill will toward you personally and would hope you feel the same of me. I think reasonable people can agree to disagree and proceed with what your GHAAC leader, Judith Foritano, referred to March 11 as "practicing principles of civil discourse."

Therese and I have witnessed first-hand some horrible and unacceptable behavior by area residents who support these bumps. They've used language that I cannot repeat in an email or anywhere else. I've asked over and over that folks who oppose the speed bumps NOT use that same behavior in response and I feel they have honored that request. There may be some anti-bumps folks who have been impolite and if that's true, it's unfortunate and I don't condone it. Nor do any of the anti-speed bump petition organizers.

Many thanks!

I look forward to hearing from you very soon. I've copied the beep4bumps mailing list on this so that they can see that I'm trying to be proactive on this topic. I don't have a comprehensive list of GHAAC members, but I've tried to copy some of them on this too. My gut tells me that not all GHAAC members support the speed bumps and we'd like to whole-heartedly welcome them to the speed bump opposition. I'll also post this on the website along with your reply once I receive it.

Best regards,  
John Hostvedt