



John Hohenfeldt

Mayor, City of Cudahy

An open letter to the parents, guardians, or anyone responsible for dropping off students at any of the School District of Cudahy schools...

As Mayor of the City of Cudahy, I get to lead this community through its best of times, and worst of times. On the morning of September 4th, I sat in my personal vehicle and observed the traffic situation at Lincoln Elementary. Quite simply said, the behavior of some parents was disconcerting.

The observed behavior demonstrated an appalling lack of concern for student safety and a total disrespect for the law. If the entire Cudahy Police Department were at that location, they would not have been able to keep up with the blatant violations.

Listed below are only a few of the actions I observed in less than a fifteen minute time-frame:

- Two vehicles made illegal right turns during posted times. I did not get license plate numbers, or I would have provided for issuance of municipal citation.
- Parents parked in the drop off zone on Allerton Avenue (blocking the zone) and kept their child or children in the car—even when the school building was open due to rain.
- Parents double parked on Allerton and dropped their kids off in the second lane rather than the drop off zone because of the illegally parked autos.
- Because of the long wait to turn onto Packard Avenue from Allerton, multiple vehicles used the alley for a “cut-through” between Allerton and Van Norman.
- Parents used the angle parking area to drop off their children, and then backed into the street right before and after the bell rang, creating several traffic backups.
- Parents parked on the south side of Allerton Avenue, walked their children across the street mid-block rather than going to the corner. The parents then crossed back to their autos mid-block.

“Generations of Pride”

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- A vehicle drove down the wrong side of Allerton Avenue due to the double parking in both lanes. I was able to get the license plate number of that vehicle and turned it over to the Cudahy Police Department

School drop-off, traffic flow and safety issues have always been a concern at neighborhood schools. The Mayor, Common Council, School District Board of Directors, School Administration, Chief of Police, Police Department, Director of Engineering, Teachers and Staff, and the city's Traffic and Safety Commission have collaborated over the years to ensure student safety. It's evident that we now need your assistance!

Last school year, I approved the utilization of overtime by the Cudahy Police Department through saturation enforcement. The hard working taxpayers of our community should not have to pay because a minority will not follow the rules.

The School District of Cudahy will be sending home a letter today with every student instructing their parents and guardians regarding school safety and student drop off. The safety of our students is paramount. Because some drivers cannot follow the law and utilize the appropriate protocol for pickup and drop off, something must be done. I have directed the Chief of Police to increase patrols around district buildings. There will be strict enforcement of all traffic laws including the issuance of municipal citations.

As your Mayor, I am asking for the assistance of all in our community to ensure student safety and to follow the rules and laws to get our children to and from school safely. Our students, will appreciate your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

John R. Hohenfeldt

Mayor

09/04/2014

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