

April 11, 2016

Re: School Safety at Dismissal

Dear Neighbors;

A few weeks ago, a student at IS 27, the Anning S. Prall Intermediate School, was struck by an automobile after being dismissed from school. Thankfully, his injuries were limited to broken bones, but all the elements were in place for what could have been an unspeakable tragedy. The situation that led to these dangerous conditions is simple: students going home from school are forced to navigate across busy, local streets and intersections to board MTA buses.

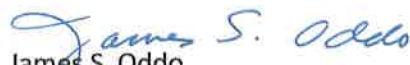
We have personally witnessed school personnel – on their own time – acting as crossing guards. They manage to inject some order into a chaotic situation, and we thank them for their caring concern.


We knew this must change, and we knew we must immediately put measures in place to protect the young boys and girls of IS 27. After meeting with officials of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, the Department of Education, the Department of Transportation and Principal Barone, we have come to a reasonable solution.

For one trip a day, the routes of the S48 and the S53 north and south will be diverted onto Clove Lakes Place to pick up students. They will stop in front of the school on Clove Lakes Place near the intersection of Elizabeth Street, and after picking up the children travel along Clove Lakes Place to Clove Road, from where they will re-connect with their original routes. We anticipate instituting the changes on 4/18/16.

On these routes, changing one bus, once a day, at dismissal time will resolve this problem. This represents an almost imperceptible departure from normal school day traffic, but also represents an enormous increase in safety for our most precious commodity: our children. We know that making these minor modifications was simply the best thing to do. Indeed, to do less was never an option.

Thank you for your kind understanding.

  
James S. Oddo  
President, Borough of Staten Island

  
Deborah Rose  
Councilmember, 49<sup>th</sup> District

