

Community rallies to bring improvements to problem intersection

by Noah Fowle
The Parkchester community is mobilizing itself in an effort to prevent a serious automobile accident from occurring at the intersection of Mansion Street and Rosedale Avenue.

While there is already a three-way stop sign installed at the intersection, local residents claim that drivers are not paying attention to the traffic devices and are blowing through them, causing significant risk to pedestrians in the area.

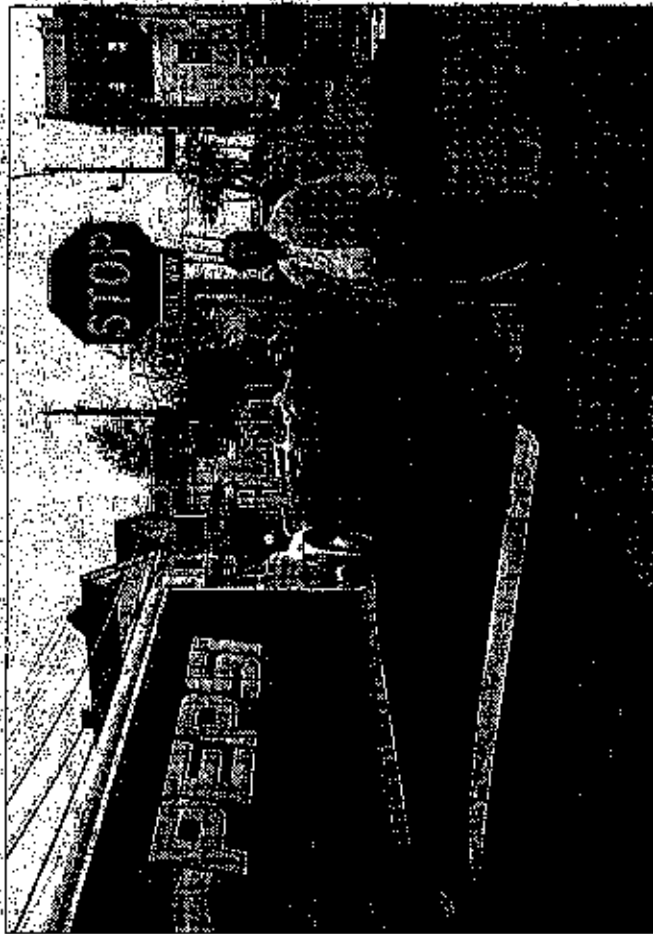
Two schools, St. Anthony's and C.S. 102, are within a few blocks of the intersection, and according to residents, many children walk along Mansion Street to get to the community's only park. In addition, the area houses a large senior citizen population, who have admitted to being afraid of the cars that zoom by with little regard for safety.

Ronald Savage, executive director

for the United Coalition Association, a non-profit organization, took up the issue after concerned parents reached out to him. Savage explained that it is his goal to find out top community concerns and then take them to the next level to ensure that a solution is found. "There have been accidents in the past and a number of residents have told me of their growing fears of more severe accidents in the future," said Savage. "I've heard about a number of instances of people having to jump back onto the sidewalk as some cars are blowing straight through the stop signs."

Savage then reached out to an old colleague at the nearby St. Anthony's, Louis Cordero.

With the support of St. Anthony's, Savage circulated recorded almost 700 signatures to support a traffic signal at the intersection. He then sent a letter to the Department of Transporta-



Louis Cordero, the parish administrator at St. Anthony's School, said that safety has to be improved at the intersection of Mansion Street and Rosedale Avenue because automobiles are not paying attention to the stop signs there. — PHOTO BY WALTER POPALDINE

tion and contacted Senator Rev. Ruthen Diaz, Sr. and Councilwoman Anabel Palma to gain more influential support.

After further discussing the problem with Savage and other community members, Diaz drafted a letter requesting that a traffic survey be completed at the intersection. "My job is to be the voice of the community, and once they told me about this dangerous situation, I had to act on it," said Diaz.

Joe Palmieri, DOT borough commissioner, confirmed that he had received the survey requests last week and that his department has already started the process of looking into the speeding problems at the intersection.

"The traffic signal study has begun and we'll be getting the results back to the community upon its conclusion," Palmieri said.

Palma urged the DOT to take the community's concerns seriously and said that she hoped changes could be instituted soon to improve safety at the intersection. "There are too many cars headed through this intersection and drivers are disregarding the stop signs," said Palma, who has also reached out to the 43rd Precinct to increase traffic patrols in the area. "Unfortunately, we cannot have our police officers there all of the time. However, it is absolutely necessary for a device to be installed at this location before a fatal accident occurs."

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