

DECATUR



RENAISSANCE
CONDOMINIUMS

March 23, 2018

Decatur City Commissioners
509 N. McDonough Street
Decatur, GA 30031

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 200 residents of the Decatur Renaissance Condominium concerning an urgent pedestrian safety problem affecting the well being of our community as well as that of all pedestrians in Downtown Decatur.

I know that you are aware of the unfortunate accident that took the life of one of our residents several weeks ago. The incident occurred at the corner of Commerce Drive and North Candler Street as our resident was crossing Commerce, while the traffic signal was showing that it was safe to proceed. This crossing has been of particular concern for us over the years because of the excessive vehicle speeding on Commerce and the short period of time allowed by the signals to cross at that intersection. The stretch of Commerce between N. Candler Street and Church Street presents a high risk to pedestrians crossing Commerce to shop at the Kroger store or to walk to the cemetery. Beginning at the Church Street traffic light and heading east, there are exits or entrances from: an open parking lot, two commercial properties, two entrance/exits at Kroger, and one entrance and exit from a parking garage ending at the Candler traffic light. Additionally, many walkers cross the N. Candler/Commerce intersection to visit the cemetery. It should also be noted that many downtown residents walk or use motorized wheel chairs through the Renaissance parking garage to Commerce Drive. The sidewalk on the south side of Commerce is in very poor condition. There is no sidewalk on the east side of N. Candler for some 100-plus feet before reaching the Commerce traffic signal. We believe that these conditions present an unacceptable risk to the safety of our community and the citizens of Decatur.

In the past, we have made our concerns known to city officials and appreciate their response. Surveys for street crossing have been conducted and proposals for extending signal time for walking were recently shared with our residents. The complexity of working with the several government agencies involved in traffic regulation and road maintenance has been explained. It appears that developing a permanent solution will take time.

We believe that there should be some effort toward providing temporary relief to this situation prior to developing and installing permanent improvements. At this time we don't know what this might be, but we know that the City has a reputation for innovation and technical know how that could hopefully provide some immediate solution for reducing some of the current risk. We, of course, would look forward to working with the City in any way that we can.

We are asking for your support in solving this acute problem. We invite you to meet with our residents and view the Commerce street risks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buddy Harrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Buddy Harrell, President
DRC Association (on behalf of Residents at Decatur Renaissance Condominiums)

Cc: Peggy Merriss, City Manager