

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a very concerned parent with respect to the safety of our children and vehicles on busy streets. My child takes the school bus to and from school daily, and there has been numerous occasions when my child has been almost hit by drivers ignoring school bus lights and signs, as well as the law of the road.

Over the past year, I have contacted the London Police Department requesting that a patrol car come and monitor the area as we are right on Highbury Avenue. Their response was to take a picture of the cars going through the lights, get a video and send it to them. I asked them how was I to protect my child and other children while monitoring the traffic for them. Their response was they were too busy to have someone sit there and watch for this to occur. I understand that the department is busy, but their main objective is to protect the citizens of the city. How many children will it take to get hit before action is taken.

We educate our children in school about bus safety by having "Buster the Bus" come out and talk to the children. It is a fabulous program for the children. The presentation even talks about how cars are to stop for the bus stop sign and flashing lights. If we are teaching this to our children, then why can the police not make sure they are enforcing this law? My child does not understand how the law applies to some and not others.

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation website states that "

school bus travel is very safe in Ontario. Injuries and fatalities, which are very rare, happen more often outside the school bus as students are boarding and leaving the bus or crossing the street. It's important for motorists, parents, caregivers and students to know how to keep children safe when they are on and around school buses."

I know from taking driver's training that they teach and educate drivers the rules of the road which includes driving on a road with or without a median that involves a school bus and fines associated with breaking the law. These rules are specifically outlined, as well as being on MTO's website,

- When driving on a road **WITHOUT** a median: drivers travelling in both directions must stop for a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing; when you approach the bus from the front, stop at a safe distance to let children get on or off the bus and cross the road; and don't move forward until the red lights have stopped flashing or the bus begins to move.

When driving on a road **WITH** a median, traffic coming from the opposite direction is **not** required to stop.

If we are to teach children to follow rules and to stay safe, I feel that the London Police, the School Boards and the City should be working with parents to ensure the safety of our children in the community.

Reporting Drivers Who Don't Stop

According to the MTOs, one can report a vehicle that doesn't stop properly for a school bus to police immediately by calling 911, or by going to the nearest police station to file a complaint..

As I have mentioned earlier, I have called the London Police Department and reported this information several times and have been told that it cannot be used. It is unbelievable that the people who are here to protect and enforce the law is turning their attention to other issues. What will it take for someone to help us before a child is injured or killed as a result of a driver's negligent to obey the law when it comes to school buses. My biggest question is how can we get information when we are pulling our children away from being hit?

I must commend our bus driver as he is always looking out in the best interest of our children as he honks the horn at the drivers that drives by the stop sign.

When it comes down to who should get the ticket, as it states on the Ontario Ministry of Transportation website, it is the owner of the vehicle who receives the ticket and therefore the London Police Services should be using the information we gather and go after the owner of these vehicles, as it is the owner's responsibility for their own vehicle at all times.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concern and I would appreciate if you could address the issues at hand. I look forward to hearing from you and what will be done to help protect our children.

Sincerely,

Cora Mainland and Rick Glenn