

**From:**  
**To:** [Committee of Adjustment \(SM\)](#)  
**Subject:** Application A 2025-048 concerning 24 Amherst Drive  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:30:02 PM

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You don't often get email from [redacted]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my opposition to Minor Variance Application A 2025-048 concerning [24 Amherst Drive](#). The application proposes:

- An increased driveway width of 8.3 meters (exceeding the 8-meter bylaw limit); and
- A 0-meter southerly side yard setback (where 1.2 meters is required), to legalize an existing driveway and convert the garage into an entryway for an Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU).

I believe these variances will negatively affect the neighborhood for the following reasons:

The requested changes would not only increase the property's capacity but also eliminate important setbacks that contribute to character, privacy and neighborhood safety.

**Ongoing Disruptive Behavior:**

This is a rental property with no on-site owner. Due to this fact, its current use has resulted in repeated disturbances and crime.

(Individuals/guests/residents —urinating, defecating, and vomiting on the neighboring property - and exposing themselves beside parked vehicles in front of the neighboring property, and dangerous driving, stunt driving, drinking and driving, walking on the Drive with opened alcohol from this home to the neighboring property, their guests of this property drink open alcohol and walk to the neighboring property), unattended fire-pit, littering which includes glass alcohol bottles and cans and noise.)

These behaviors have been reported to police and are ongoing.

The Bylaw Enforcement is praised for their efforts; however, their patrols are infrequent.

This is unacceptable and deeply disrespectful to the neighboring property and nearby homeowners.

**Over-intensification:**

Approving these changes would increase occupancy and traffic, leading to further disruption, noise, litter, and safety issues. An increased driveway invites more vehicles, which in turn increases potential problematic behavior and crime.

Allowing increased driveway width and eliminating the side yard setback may contribute to overdevelopment of the lot, potentially changing the character of the neighborhood and setting a precedent for future applications.

**Emergency and Road Access Risks:**

There is a fire hydrant directly beside the driveway. Increasing public vehicle access near it may impede emergency services. Additionally, illegal street parking in front of this home already blocks road access, especially in winter, affecting snow removal and local traffic.

**Pedestrian and Streetscape Impact:**

There are no sidewalks on Amherst Drive. More vehicles increase risk to pedestrians, dogwalkers and families with strollers and children. Amherst drive is a pedestrian route to the Grand River through adjacent Drives pathway. Permitting more vehicles to access an area generally increases the risk of accidents and safety hazards. Increased vehicle volume can lead to opportunities for danger especially in areas with no sidewalk.

Widening or increasing driveways also reduces green space and alters the residential character of the

street.

**Drainage and Property Maintenance:**

A 0-meter setback eliminates buffer space needed for proper drainage and property maintenance access, garbage collection access, potentially affecting neighboring properties.

Allowing an oversized driveway and a zero lot line would set a troubling precedent, eroding community standards and diminishing quality of life for surrounding residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to deny this application. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Silvana DiMaria

Please confirm this email was received.

Please see attached pictures directly related to the dangers of increasing vehicles and parking safety concerns along Amherst Drive and the adjacent Drive



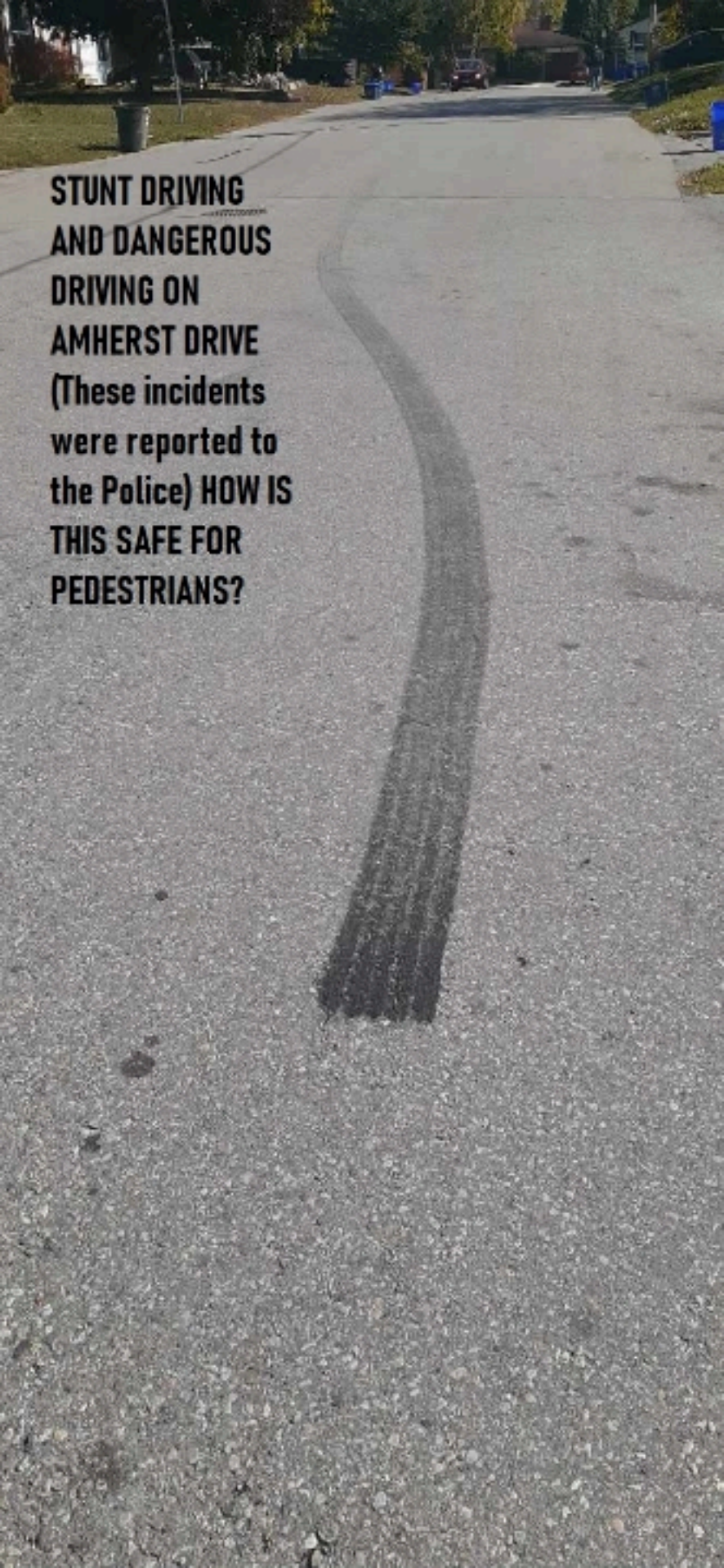
**This IS AMHERST DR! Where is a  
pedestrian supposed to walk safely?**

AMHERST DR Should Be NO PARKING along one side  
and TOW ZONE on the other side for pedestrians and  
for the plow and for bikers and dog walkers. Cause  
where can a person walk safely? NO WHERE!



**Showing You THIS PICTURE OF AMERST  
DRIVE SKID MARKINGS FROM DRAG RACING  
LAST NIGHT**



A photograph of a residential street. A large, dark, curved tire mark is visible on the asphalt, starting from the bottom center and curving towards the left. In the background, there are houses, trees, and a few parked cars. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**STUNT DRIVING  
AND DANGEROUS  
DRIVING ON  
AMHERST DRIVE  
(These incidents  
were reported to  
the Police) HOW IS  
THIS SAFE FOR  
PEDESTRIANS?**



**STUNT DRIVING SKIDDING ON  
AMHERST AND THE VEHICLE WENT  
OVER THE CURB AND SMASHED THE  
STOP SIGN ON DRUMMOND DRIVE**

**This was the picture from the morning as the  
NIGHT PARTY on AMHERST and VEHICLES dispersed.**







