

June 9, 2026

Dear City of Baltimore,

My name is Elana Kanter, and I am a resident of Barre Circle (MD Legislative District 40). I am writing to urge you to take immediate action to address the dangerous speeding and reckless driving that have become a persistent problem in our neighborhood.

For those of us who live here, this is no longer an abstract concern about traffic safety. It has become a matter of whether our families, neighbors, and homes are safe.

Cars frequently travel at excessive speeds through our residential streets. Residents regularly witness near misses involving pedestrians, cyclists, and other drivers. Many of us have become accustomed to hearing tires screeching, engines accelerating, and the sounds of collisions or near-collisions outside our homes.

This should not be normal.

This past weekend alone, our neighborhood experienced two alarming incidents. One car crashed into and destroyed a local bus stop. Another vehicle crashed directly into my apartment building, striking the first-floor apartment. Not only did the car directly run into someone's home, it destroyed a piece of South Baltimore history in the process. The car shattered a previously preserved store front window, which still had some original text of the goods it sold. It is difficult to overstate how frightening and devastating this was. It is only by chance that, to my knowledge, these incidents did not result in fatalities.



Bus Stop Crash: Lombard St & MLK on June 5, 2026 (photo credit: @bikelife.baltimore)



Apartment Crash: Lombard St & Scott Street on June 6, 2026 (photo credit: Elana Kanter)

The question should not be how many more crashes must occur before meaningful action is taken. The question should be: What can we do **now** to save lives, to create safe neighborhoods, to promote a safe commute for residents, and to preserve homes, historic buildings, and local infrastructure?

I respectfully ask that Baltimore City prioritize traffic calming and safety improvements in our neighborhood. Possible measures could include:

- Speed humps or raised crosswalks;
- Traffic calming infrastructure designed to slow vehicles;
- Enhanced signage and highly visible crosswalk markings;
- Traffic studies to identify the most dangerous areas;
- Increased enforcement of speeding and reckless driving laws;
- Pedestrian safety improvements near bus stops and residential areas.

Our streets should be designed for the people who live here, not treated as shortcuts or speedways. Children should be able to walk safely, residents should be able to wait for public transportation without fear, and families should feel secure in their own homes.

I urge you to act before another preventable tragedy occurs. The recent crashes are a warning that the current situation is unacceptable. Our community deserves proactive solutions rather than waiting until someone is seriously injured or killed.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your attention to this urgent public safety issue. I hope you will work with residents to implement meaningful changes that make our neighborhood safer for everyone. Please feel welcome to share this letter and urgent request with others. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
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