

From: [Sally Lehner](#)
To: [Mayor](#); [Patterson, John](#)
Cc: [Transportation Commission](#); [Tao, Yang](#); [Sanon, Reuben A](#); [Munger, Sam R.](#); [Spieler, Christof T](#); [Evers, Tag](#)
Subject: Fw: Sasha Rosen
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:03:57 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-cid_image0.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from sa_lehner@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway & Police Chief Patterson,

I attended the Transportation Commission hearing last night regarding safety issues on South Park Street. Both city transportation staff and Captain Woehrle stated that traffic enforcement is a critical component of the city's Vision Zero strategy. There was also a lot of discussion about what can be done today to make our streets safer. Many of the proposed solutions have long timetables, like reconstruction and changing state law for speed cameras, not to mention the ever-expanding waiting list for safe streets projects.

In your roles as police chief and mayor, however, you have the power to make immediate and necessary adjustments in the aftermath of Sasha's death by substantially increasing traffic enforcement on our streets, especially during school start and end times. According to the Vision Zero strategy, traffic enforcement is an effective and necessary tool to help our streets become safer so that we don't have kids like Sasha, following all the traffic rules, using safety tools thought to protect pedestrians in the traffic engineering word (flashing beacons, cross-walks), get killed trying to get their school bus by a driver flagrantly disobeying traffic laws. Transportation Director Christof Spieler acknowledged that even though the intersection where Sasha was killed exceeded engineering safety standards, it's not enough because those standards as implemented didn't work well in practice.

Transportation staff also shared that speeding is the #1 complaint they receive.

Commissioners and public speakers emphasized the need to change our reckless driving culture because it is putting our community at risk. Commissioner Denise Jess characterized it as a public health crisis. I agree, and as someone who grew up in Madison, I've seen the culture shift first-hand, alongside our city's rapid population growth and dwindling traffic enforcement.

My alder, Tag Evers, has already indicated that he is supporting an additional traffic enforcement team for the police department, please see the email below. Can this be done effective immediately?

The transportation department didn't have any immediate short-term solutions for Park Street (other than putting flags on the speed limit signs), and staff repeatedly stated that there are other streets in the city that are as dangerous as Park Street (Packers Ave, East Washington,

and Monroe Street were mentioned among others). Please consider instituting increased traffic enforcement, especially where kids are traveling to and from school, as an immediate course correction.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,
Sally Lehner

From: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:35 AM
To: Sally Lehner <sa_lehner@hotmail.com>
Cc: Transportation Commission <TransportationCommis@cityofmadison.com>; Patterson, John <JPatterson@cityofmadison.com>; Tao, Yang <YTao@cityofmadison.com>; Sanon, Reuben A <RSanon@cityofmadison.com>; Munger, Sam R. <SMunger@cityofmadison.com>; 'VNA President' <vnapresident@gmail.com>; Michael Rewey <hiwayman@chorus.net>; annelizabethkovich@gmail.com <annelizabethkovich@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Sasha Rosen

Hi Sally,

Prior to the time I was elected to Common Council, in 2016 or 2017 when Paul Soglin was Mayor, the city eliminated one of the Traffic Enforcement Safety Teams. There has only been one TEST team since I've been on Council.

This is the second time you've claimed I am responsible for reducing traffic enforcement in the city, that it happened on my watch. It is simply not true.

I have copied Madison Police Chief John Patterson if you have further questions about this matter. Chief Patterson can attest that I have been in conversations before and after Sasha's death to explore adding a second team.

I may not be able to convince you that I and my colleagues on Council, together with the Mayor's office and city staff, take seriously the matter of traffic safety, but I can assure you we do.

Sincerely,

Tag Evers



Tag Evers

District 13 Alder

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<http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district13/blog/>

From: Sally Lehner <sa_lehner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 9:51 AM
To: Evers, Tag <district13@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Transportation Commission <TransportationCommis@cityofmadison.com>;
annelizabethkovich@gmail.com <annelizabethkovich@gmail.com>
Subject: Sasha Rosen

Dear Alderman Evers,

I am writing to you today as a parent of a West High School classmate of Sasha Rosen. I visited the intersection where he was killed, there is a constant stream of speeding cars and reckless driving. It's very scary to cross the intersection with the flashing beacon.

I called Sergeant Kurt Wege to report the reckless driving, even in the presence of the flowers and memorial marking Sasha's death.

According to Sergeant Wege, MPD doesn't have enough funding to enforce traffic laws. There are only five officers enforcing traffic safety for the entire city due to cuts you and others have made. Can Sasha's death lead you to change course and advocate for more traffic enforcement funding?

The loss of Sasha is a tragedy and also completely preventable. Your public comment on the District 13 blog, justifying the safety of the intersection where he was killed, stating that you've learned that it exceeds safety standards, is ludicrous.

Increased investment traffic calming infrastructure and addressing speeding issues on Park St. and across our community can make sure this never happens again to another family.

As a leader, I'm asking you today for visible and impactful advocacy in the fight for safer streets.

Sincerely,
Sally Lehner