Germantowners Seek More Crossing Guards But None Want Job: City Needs ...
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Germantowners Seek More Crossing Guards But None Want Job

City Needs 14 Women To Take School Crossing Posts In Gtn.

By ART PETERS, Staff Writer

GERMANTOWN—Hundreds of Germantown parents and dozens of neighborhood groups are angrily demanding additional crossing guards to protect school children at busy intersections, but despite the fact that the city is ready, willing and practically begging to put 14 additional female guards to work in the Germantown area, not one of the mothers who complained has applied for the job.

This was the sorry state of affairs in Germantown which this week prompted Police Lt. Horace Powell, chief of City Crossing Guards to issue an appeal to Germantown women, especially mothers, to apply for the vacant jobs.

Lt. Powell told the Tribune somewhat bitterly that his department has received numerous complaints and petitions from Germantown civic groups and parents demanding additional crossing guards.

NOT ONE APPLICANT

"And yet," Powell said, "not one of these mothers who complained has volunteered to accept a job as a crossing guard."

The Lieutenant declined to name any persons who had led protests groups.

"I don't want to embarrass anyone," he said, "but it strikes me that if they really need additional crossing guards, a few of them would at least apply for the vacant positions."

Powell said that almost any woman could pass the simple requirements for the job. "The only requirements are that female applicants be in good health at least five feet, two inches tall, and have 20-30 vision, with or without glasses."

Many of the vacant Crossing Guard positions are at intersections where irate protests groups have previously demanded protection for school children.

VACANCIES LISTED

These intersections include Bethlehem Pike and Chestnut Hill, Crittendon and Johnson sts. and Lincoln Drive and Green sts. "Inasmuch as many parents have complained about the lack of crossing guards at these intersections, I at least thought women would apply for these vacancies," Powell said. He added that they haven't.

Other vacancies are at Allens Lane and Bryan sts.; Arleigh st. and Vernon rd.; Carpenter Lane and Lincoln Drive; Germantown ave. and Haines st.; Green and Hortter sts.; Green and Rittenhouse sts.; Coulter and Morris sts.; Lincoln Drive and McCallum st.; Mt. Pleasant ave. and Rodney st. and Mount Pleasant and Woolston aves.

Powell said that Germantown has more vacancies for crossing guards than any other section of the city. At present, the Germantown unit, with 45 guards, is 25 per cent short of its full strength of 60.

"The Crossing Guard system is only seven years old," Powel said. "Some of the Germantown vacancies have not been filled since I first became chief five years ago."

Women who are eligible for Crossing Guard duty receive salaries ranging from $4.20 to $5.25 per day.

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