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Wednesday, January 26, 2005

# Keep Glenview Avenue mile open, residents vote

## College Hill Forum won't close troubled street

 By Kevin Aldridge  
Enquirer staff writer

**COLLEGE HILL** - Residents from College Hill, Northside and Mount Airy rejected a proposal Tuesday to permanently close a mile-long stretch of Glenview Avenue from Tanglewood Lane to Kirby Avenue.

The residents voted 193-85 to keep the road open.

The proposal has divided neighbors in College Hill. Some residents view Glenview as a good shortcut to Northside and all points south. Others say the road is a haven for illegal dumping and reckless drivers.

Tuesday's meeting of the College Hill Forum - the neighborhood's community council - drew residents from both sides.

"Glenview has really become the garbage dump of choice for Northside, College Hill and Mount Airy," said William Fitzpatrick, leader of a group of residents in favor of the closure.

"This isn't about neighbor versus neighbor. Our real opponent is the city and what it doesn't do to deal with these problems."

Opponents say that closing Glenview is a radical solution to speeding and litter problems. They agree those and other road problems need to be fixed, but say there has to be a better way.

"Nobody should have to live with litter in their front yard," said Robert Tamm, a College Hill resident. "But if we shut down every street with those problems, we would all have to get bicycles because there would not be a street left open in the city."

Glenview Avenue has been closed for nearly a year while the city made improvements to Kirby Avenue and other streets nearby.

It was supposed to reopen in December, but city officials agreed to keep it closed while traffic studies can be completed.

Steve Bailey, the city's traffic engineer, said it is rare for the city to close any street. He said residents would need to prove that a greater good would be served by closing Glenview.

Bailey said city officials would likely recommend that the road be reopened early next month. City Council's Neighborhoods Committee is expected to vote on the proposal by Feb. 8.

"There may be other ways to deal with the problems on Glenview, but we know this way works," said Mike Murphy, a resident of Glenview who favors closure.

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William Fitzpatrick told the College Hill Forum on Tuesday that this part of Glenview Avenue should stay closed because it has become a dumping ground and a high-speed shortcut. Residents later voted to reopen it.  
The Enquirer/Tony Jones  
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