

**THE CITY OF KENT, OHIO
HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE
WED., AUGUST 1, 2007**

This meeting of the Health & Safety Committee of Kent City Council was called to order at 7:06 p.m. on Wed., August 1, 2007 by Carrie Gavriloff, Chair. Ms. Gavriloff explained the only item on their agenda dealt with left turn prohibitions on Elmwood @ E. Main St. and Wilson @ E. Main Street.

ROLL CALL: MR. BARGERSTOCK, MR. DELEONE, MR. FERRARA, MS. GAVRILOFF, MR. HAWKSLEY, MR. KUCHAR, MS. OSWITCH, MR. SCHULTZ (ARR. @), AND MR. WILSON

ALSO PRESENT; J. FENDER, MAYOR; D. RULLER, CITY MANAGER, E. FINK, ASS'T LAW DIRECTOR, W. LILICH, SAFETY DIRECTOR; G. ROBERTS, SERVICE DIRECTOR; AND L. COPLEY, CLERK OF COUNCIL

**ABSENT: MR. SCHULTZ
J. SILVER, LAW DIRECTOR**

Dave Ruller, City Manager, explained they included a summary from the Traffic Safety & Engineering Committee, who reviewed items related to East Main Street. He said that **William Lillich, Safety Director and Gene Roberts, Service Director**, were present. He said they both serve on the committee, and are available if they have specific questions.

Mr. Lillich said they checked out some of the accident data. He said they are at a loss on how to make any other safety improvements, with the exception of one area, where they may partner with a private property owner. He said the proposed prohibitions on left turns are a test, and they are not being presented as a permanent prohibition. He said it may create more of a backup on Crain Ave. for those using Luther Street to access Main Street with the light.

Mr. Roberts asked that they would consider an emergency clause, enabling them to get this operational before the first day of classes at Kent State.

Mr. DeLeone asked if there were any plans to adjust the light at Luther Avenue, adding that it only allows three cars to pass. He said that intersection will have a big backup.

Mr. Hawksley asked if there has been a study, adding that a lot of the people go past Luther because of the light. He asked if they have evaluated keeping the light green for a longer time during certain day time hours. Mr. Lillich said there are limitations on what they can do, and Mr. Roberts agreed. He said it is difficult to make changes to the light, without impacting the east and west flow of traffic with the current system. Mr. Roberts said it would be less difficult with the new system. Mr. Lillich said that is one reason they pushed for the new system, adding the current technology is thirty years old and very limited. Mr. Roberts said there are only two adjustments, one for a.m. and one for p.m., with no other modifications possible.

Mr. Bargerstock said he is confused with what was presented. He asked if the idea of lengthening the green light on Luther is to allow more traffic to pass from Luther to the campus, or to make left or right turns, and Mr. Roberts said it is for the east and west traffic. Mr. Bargerstock said if they shortened the light, they would have less traffic, adding it may discourage more people from traveling on Crain, which is their objective. Mr. Lillich said they do not want to create more traffic, and want to see if this helps push more traffic onto Main Street. He said it may push more on Crain by people going down University, Sherman, and Lincoln. Mr. Bargerstock said that the more the traffic is backed up, the more people will avoid it and not travel on Main Street. Mr. Lillich said that comment may be more optimistic.

Mr. Fender asked if this is due to the accident rate, and Mr. Lillich said that was correct to a significant extent. Mr. Fender asked the length of the testing period, and Mr. Lillich said it would be one full year. Mr. Fender asked when it would be initiated, and Mr. Lillich said they hoped within two weeks

Ms. Oswitch asked if they will look at traffic on Frances, Fairview and Overlook to be sure they are not just cutting through those streets, and Mr. Lillich said he was sure that some of their friends in that area will share that information.

Mr. DeLeone asked how people will turn left on Main Street if they live up there.

Mr. Kuhar asked if the amount of traffic that should be on Wilson Avenue and Elmwood Street minimal as compared to other side Mr. Lillich said he did not think it was an issue of people making left turns to get home, adding that some maybe leaving that neighborhood. Mr. Kuhar suggested they would either go further east or go to Luther. Mr. Kuhar asked if they were saying that people cannot turn left from the streets onto Main, and several members clarified that was the point of conversation.

There was no audience comment at this time.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURNS, ELMWOOD @ E. MAIN ST. AND WILSON @ E. MAIN STREET, WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.

Motion made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Ms. Oswitch.

Ms. Oswitch thanked the Committee for looking at this situation. She said she has passed on several emails, and the residents are concerned about safety and accidents

Mr. Bargerstock said he has witnessed daily accidents. He said this action will not be a problem for the people exiting the neighborhood, as a lot of them use Lake Street. He said this will discourage University traffic and 'cut through' traffic.

The motion carried by a voice vote of 7-1-1, with Mr. DeLeone dissenting and Ms. Gavrilloff abstaining.

Hearing no further business before this Committee, Chair Gavrilloff adjourned this meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Linda M. Copley, Clerk of Council

ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- 1) **TO AUTHORIZE THE PROHIBITION OF LEFT TURNS, ELMWOOD @ E. MAIN STREET AND WILSON @ E. MAIN STREET, WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**