

November 11, 2011

To: All Members of Ann Arbor City Council

From: Luther Schaible, President
Rogers Corner Community Action Group
Washtenaw County Farm Bureau

RE: New Pedestrian Law

2011 NOV -7 PM 4:21

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
CITY CLERK
REC'D

We urge you to revoke the recently enacted pedestrian law because the unintended consequences have created a situation where both pedestrians and drivers are less safe than before the measure was enacted.

Pedestrians have always had the right of way, but this new measure has created a false sense of security for pedestrians, and has raised the insecurity level among drivers to a point of making many drivers unsafe because of the anticipation of where the next pedestrian will suddenly appear. The situation is akin to drivers needing to be aware of where the next deer will dart across the road. Interstate highways as well as country roads are littered with the bodies of that system.

The end result is easily foreseeable and more injuries, property damage and deaths will occur as a result of this new law.

If the law is not quickly repealed, we suggest:

1. Where traffic and crosswalk lights now exist, pedestrians also should be bound by the law to obey those traffic and crosswalk signals.
2. Pedestrians should be required to cross at crosswalks. If no traffic light exists at that crosswalk -- a flashing yellow light should be installed so that drivers have a means of anticipating that someone might be crossing. Those flashing yellow lights should be equipped with a button where the pedestrian can activate a red light in order to safely cross.