

# ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**JULIANN FLAHERTY**  
Chief of Police



*Town of Arlington*  
MASSACHUSETTS 02474

**POLICE HEADQUARTERS**  
112 Mystic Street  
781-316-3900

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ashley Maher  
Select Board Office Manager

**FROM:** Officer Corey P. Rateau  
Traffic and Parking Unit

**DATE:** March 17, 2022

**RE:** Proposed Amendment to Article VII, Sec. 8 of the Traffic Rules and Orders To Prohibit Left Turns at Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street/Place (Westbound)

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The Arlington Police Department Traffic and Parking Unit is requesting that left turns be restricted at the above location between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm until further notice. This intersection has been the location of several crashes between cars and bicycles over the past few years that have resulted in serious injuries and one fatality. One of the main contributing factors in these crashes was the naturally occurring phenomenon of afternoon/early evening solar glare in the sky. As an interim stopgap measure, the Arlington Police Department was tasked with deploying officers for several hours a day for several months to prevent people from turning left onto Appleton Street.

After engineering consultants were hired and traffic studies were performed in the corridor to attempt to mitigate these crashes, various proposals were made and eventually adopted by the town. One change was making Appleton Place a one-way heading southeast from Massachusetts Avenue. Other additions included a dedicated bicycle lane, new lane configurations throughout the corridor and the intersection itself being redesigned through the use of multiple bollards. The result slowed traffic approaching the intersection and also made it so that westbound motor vehicles wishing to turn left would be forced to make more of a hard turn rather than merely merging left to proceed onto Appleton. However, none of these actions affected the natural occurrence of afternoon/early evening solar glare. And since none of these improvements on the ground will block out the sun, the Department is now being tasked again with deploying units to this intersection to prevent people from turning. We feel that this continued daily request for several months a year is a strain on already limited resources within the Department as it takes an officer away from performing other police actions within the town for at least a half of a shift. We are therefore asking that MUTCD compliant signs be installed at the intersection restricting left turns between 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm and that extra bollards similar to the ones already in place be provided to the Department so that we can deploy and then remove them during those times on both Appleton Street as well as on Massachusetts Avenue (to fill in the gap and prevent left turns onto Appleton Place). We are asking that this restriction remain in place until any future proposed phases of

updates, which could include a full traffic signal with a split-phase for left turns, are completed and the turn restriction is no longer needed.

## **CPR**

CC: Juliann Flaherty  
Chief of Police

Captain Sean Kiernan  
Support Services Division Commander

Lt. Rick Pedrini  
OIC/Traffic, Details, and Licensing

Adam Chapdelaine  
Town Manager

Wayne Chouinard  
Town Engineer