

From: **Ira Ungar** <ira.h.ungar@gmail.com>

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Subject: Current Problem in Kemp Mill Urban Park Construction: Danger of pedestrian and vehicle accidents due to sign placement and lack of pedestrian walkway during Jewish Holidays and Sabbath, to Yeshiva of Greater Washington and Young Israel Shomrai Emunah

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Dear Aaron,

I got an urgent call today from Principal, Rabbi Amram Hess, of Yeshiva High School, on 1216 Arcola Ave., telling me that the sidewalk was being closed by the Kemp Mill Urban Park construction staff on the west side of Arcola, in front of the park, between the Yeshiva of Greater Washington (YGW) and Young Israel Shomrai Emunah (YISE) at the absolute worst time of the year, i.e., during the Jewish High Holidays month which includes Yom Kippur, Succot, Simchat Torah, and adjoining Sabbaths through October 25, 2016. This blocks pedestrian access from its south side to and from the Yeshiva, which holds services, lectures, and a library and study hall, greatly in use during the Holiday Season. It also blocks the path from the Yeshiva to YISE, the largest synagogue in the area. It also blocks southbound pedestrian traffic heading toward homes and the shopping center from the middle of the block, and people then are unlikely to turn around and walk back to the beginning of a long block, and cross the street to continue to walk southbound.

As you probably know, Kemp Mill and its surrounding area has the largest concentration of Orthodox Jews in the Washington DC area, thousands of people, who are prohibited from using vehicles and only walk on the Jewish Holidays and Sabbaths.

Currently, there are no clear instructions of an alternative way to get to the Yeshiva or that the sidewalk is closed, since there are contradictory signs directing pedestrians to the sidewalk. The sidewalk was still being used today. This will certainly encourage hundreds of pedestrians to walk on the sidewalk, or in the street if the sidewalk is closed, risking an accident exactly where a pedestrian teenager, Dov Klugerman, was killed by a car several years ago, which occasioned the Arcola Ave. reconstruction.

Also there is a new large red diamond sign stating "Right Turn Lane Closed," north of the Yeshiva driveway, which blocks the line of sight to southbound cars on Arcola to drivers exiting the Yeshiva (not on Sabbath and Holidays), making all right and left turns dangerous. Please change the location of the sign immediately.

Desiree, the foreperson at the Construction site, told me she was following the plan, and she needed instructions from you or someone else at the Parks Department to change plans or install any further signs or instructions.

I suggest that if the sidewalk will be closed, a pedestrian passageway be built next to the sidewalk in front of the park on the extreme right side of southbound Arcola, from the dozens of orange construction barrels that are onsite. Alternatively, some other pedestrian path could be

installed, something that is generally set up for high-density pedestrian traffic when a sidewalk is closed. Another solution, is to do other work on the park until October 25, and close the sidewalk after that date.

Thank you.

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