



CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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CITY OF ANN ARBOR MAKING STRIDES TO ENSURE SAFE CROSSING FOR PEDESTRIANS

ANN ARBOR, Mich., June 10, 2010 — Two Ann Arbor intersections will become safe havens for pedestrians in coming weeks. In conjunction with the Ann Arbor Safe Streets and Sidewalks taskforce and the city transportation program, the Ann Arbor Police force is conducting a pedestrian safety targeted enforcement campaign at the intersections of Ann St. and Fifth Ave. and Seventh St and Washington during the weeks of June 13th and 20th.

The campaign will span two weeks, and police officers will keep a watchful eye for drivers not yielding the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the street at crosswalks. Officers will pull over violators and issue warnings throughout the first week. They will ramp up the effort the second week by issuing moving violation tickets with up to a \$130 fine and two driver license points. Pedestrian safety is a particularly important issue for city councilman Carsten Hohnke who relates, “Pedestrians have the right of way at crosswalks, and motorists do not always drive accordingly. A safety campaign is one of a number of tools we have for maintaining a pedestrian-friendly community.” Hohnke’s concerns were shared by many at the Washtenaw Biking and Walking Coalition pedestrian forum in October of last year.

Safe driving is not the entire solution, as pedestrians are also responsible for their own safety in many cases. With this in mind, the city is producing informational materials targeting drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists on the subject of safety and basic etiquette. The materials are posted online at www.a2gov.org/WalkBikeDrive.

The targeted enforcement campaign is a component of a broader program consisting of the “Five Es”: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation. Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje elaborates, “The city has been working on engineering quality

pedestrian facilities in addition to educating and encouraging, and an enforcement mechanism is the next logical step in moving Ann Arbor to being one of the premier pedestrian-friendly communities in the country.”

Pedestrian safety is especially important in Ann Arbor with 14.5 percent of residents walking to work, nearly six times the national average. In addition, Ann Arbor has been recognized by *Prevention* magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association as the third most walkable city in the country.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, go to school, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city’s mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.