

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT \_ VAN HOOK

Dear PBAC Committee Members,

I was almost killed at the crosswalk that spans East Washington at Keller Street two weeks ago (the westmost one in front of the Phoenix). I pressed the beg signal and waited for acknowledgment from drivers, but it was not enough. About 3/4 of the way through, it was a shock to see an SUV speeding up at an alarming rate. I am currently able-bodied and was able to run my way to the curb. They stopped and looked at me apologetically. Someone working outside was staring at me in horror. Another driver pulled off of the road and stopped me to apologize *for the driver she didn't even know*. She witnessed the whole thing and was horrified. It was a traumatic experience for others as well as myself.

I'm especially nervous for my 87-year-old colleague who walks to Petaluma Market several times a week through that crosswalk. Every time I use it I have to wave my arms at cars to keep them from driving through while I'm in it, and it is causing me considerable stress while crossing and distress that someone will eventually get hit. I shouldn't feel like I could die at any second in a crosswalk and I shouldn't have to flail my arms to feel safe as a pedestrian in Petaluma.

In fact today (4/26), we witnessed a severe accident involving drivers slamming their breaks in this very crosswalk. I spoke with a police officer on the scene and he confirmed that while standing there waiting for the wrecked cars to be towed, he couldn't believe how people were driving at this intersection. He was shocked that people would behave that way *with police on the scene*. I'm sad that this accident felt inevitable to me and it only confirmed my sense that we have to do something positive and constructive to help fix this.

Stephanie Van Hook

Keller Street