



6/2/2024

Mark Schwartz  
County Manager's Office  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 302  
Arlington, VA 22201

**Subject:** Police cruiser hits Shirlington pedestrian at crossing with pending ArNAC project

Dear Mr. Manager,

The Shirlington Civic Association was outraged by the accident today at S Arlington Mill Drive and Campbell. **A police cruiser hit a pedestrian at 9:00 am. We have a specific, actionable remedy which we urgently call to your attention.**

You know this intersection. There are two lanes in each direction. The police cruiser failed to slow down in its lane even though a school bus returning to Trades had already slowed down for a pedestrian in the first lane. An article in ArlNow is now trending at 100 comments and counting.

[https://www.arlnow.com/2026/06/02/video-acpd-cruiser-strikes-pedestrian-in-shirlington/#disqus\\_thread](https://www.arlnow.com/2026/06/02/video-acpd-cruiser-strikes-pedestrian-in-shirlington/#disqus_thread)

Increasing safety at this dangerous crossing has been one of our top priorities for years. Our original request for Rapid Flashing Beacons (you remember the 20-year-old Community Benefit funds episode) was denied because it was "too close to a traffic signal."

We have long warned County staff about this unprotected crossing, especially Trades Center staff since they have so many heavy vehicles on this road. They are generally very good neighbors. APS buses are less reliable in this regard.

We have warned the police specifically. I have personally spoken about it to Chief Penn and others. **Yet there have been other incidents where police cruisers did the exact same thing as today.** I left messages today at ACPD and Chief Penn's office but could not penetrate their switchboard.

After failing the first time, the SCA representative, Virginia (Ginny) Farris, then spent years attending ArNAC meetings to qualify us for a **Rapid Flashing Beacon at this crossing.** Last year the proposal was approved and is now lumbering its way through to installation. Laura Simpson can provide details. I talked to her this afternoon.

(This crossing is in both Shirlington and Green Valley. In this ArNAC project, we are using our points for a project in the Green Valley area, with their permission. How's that for collegiality?)

**These ARNAC funds are approved, the project exists, and we suggest that you, Greg Emanuel and Chief Penn expedite this installation for everyone's sake. Get it done this year.** We do not want to be writing about someone who got severely injured or killed by a police cruiser or other County vehicle while walking from the Hilton and Shirlington Village Condos to Shirlington Park. We came very close today.

***We look forward to hearing from you. Our next SCA meeting will be on June 24 at 6:30 pm at the Shirlington public library. We invite the County to send a police representative to discuss this as well as the Cinco de Maya. We'll also be talking about parking garages access.***

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edith R. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Edith R. Wilson, President  
[president@shirlingtoncivicassociation.or](mailto:president@shirlingtoncivicassociation.or)

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