

Dec 16,2024

I am writing Mayor Pat Cadle and The Village of Newcomerstown Council members to formally request the removal of the white regulatory sign below the Stop sign 3 way at N. River Street and W. Main intersection in Newcomerstown Ohio.

On Nov. 24, 2024 my daughter and grandchildren were involved in a minor accident in which prompted an insurance claim between Unit#1 my daughter my vehicle and Unit#2 a male resident of Kimbolton and I assume familiar with the Stop sign and subsequent signage stating except right turn which is only visible to Unit#2 in this situation.

On Dec.3,2024 my husband and myself had an appointment in town and decided to stop by the police station to see if we could get a copy of the accident report to get the damage repaired on my vehicle. We believed Unit#2 ran a Stop sign and were wondering what was taking so long for a simple accident report. Officer Larry Dusenberry was the officer doing the report and was not in that day. We spoke briefly with Chief Opha Lawson in which he told us it was not completed yet. That Officer Dusenberry had been locked out of the state reporting system over the Thanksgiving holiday and would return Thurs Dec.5, 2024, finish it then and that we could get the report probably Friday morning at a cost of \$2.00. We spoke of the regulatory sign causing confusion to Unit#2 and that we felt he ran a stop sign with no response from Chief Lawson. His only response was "The sign has been there for years". My daughter at the time of the accident was told she could get a copy in a day or two via email. On Thurs Dec.5, 2024 my daughter did receive the email with the report as mentioned and within minutes my State farm was notifying me of a claim filed against us for being at fault. Upon speaking with a claims specialist John Brotherton at State Farm and told him our side in which he found pictures and a blog about that specific signage and intersection and within minutes determined that Unit#1 is NOT at fault. (Copy included from State Farms, John Brotherton). There is a Stop sign. From everything I see even with regulatory signs you must make a full and complete stop at a Stop sign first. Had Unit#2 stopped at Stop sign on the line painted on the road this accident may have been avoided.

On Dec.9,2024 we objected in writing to the Traffic Crash Report provided to the Ohio Dept of Public Safety and were responded to by Chief Lawson quickly and short saying "The narrative will not be changed, Gary did not have a stop sign." My daughter replied "Yes there is, what about ORC section 4511.43 (included) about right of ways at stop signs?" His reply was "He didn't have a stop, he was turning right and did nothing wrong." Call was ended. This didn't sit well with me and I'm glad it's only his opinion and not final say. In an At- Fault State when insurance is expensive enough for people that stings. I'm trying to understand why its OK when ONLY Unit#2 would have seen the regulatory sign and ignored the Stop. Anyone visiting your town would not know it was there unless they were traveling on N. River Street. I feel this is extremely dangerous.

On Dec. 10th I called the Mayors office and left a message to speak with Mayor Pat Cadle. He returned my call quickly and listened patiently to my concerns. Thank You Mayor Pat. His advice to me was to write to you all so everyone can open communications about resolving this issue.

Is there some particular reason that drivers and bicyclists would have to move through that intersection so quickly that they can't take the time to stop at a designated stop sign? If the answer is no, then why is it still there? Could you imagine if my vehicle would have been a bicyclists following the laws of right of way in Ohio. I am not just writing this to be a complainer. I'm taking my time because I care about safe communities. This sign causes confusion to both drivers and law enforcement and I really can't wrap my head around why it "has been there for years."

I look forward to your response to my request to remove the sign.

Respectfully, Margit Sisterhen

Dec.16, 2024