

WESTSIDE

Be prepared for motorists to cheat right-of-way rules

I got a chuckle from one of my favourite ICBC defence lawyers this past week.

I like him because he is a true gentleman whose integrity and credibility are beyond reproach.

We got to chatting about car crash prevention during a break at an examination for discovery.

My chuckle came from advice that Don would like to share with motorists about making left turns at traffic light controlled intersections.

He was talking about that classic scenario where the left turning driver pulls into the intersection on a green and waits for a break in on-



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coming traffic.

Put yourself in the place of the left turning driver. You've been there countless times.

The break in traffic you are waiting for doesn't come. The light changes from green to yellow.

You know that in a couple seconds the light will change from yellow to red, and cross traffic will get the green.

You are anxious to clear the intersection before that happens.

Cross traffic will blare their horns if you're still there when the light changes.

Worse, there will be a collision that's your fault because cross traffic will have right of way.

You remember the advice your father gave you: Don't hesitate.

The moment you see the light change to red, you hit the gas to complete your turn and get out of the way.

If the oncoming traffic is obeying the law, you will safely clear the intersection. Oncoming traffic faces the same red you do.

You have the right to

complete your turn. They are prohibited from entering the intersection.

You have the right, under the law, to expect other motorists to be law abiding.

If an oncoming motorist is not obeying the law, however, you will be broadsided by thousands of pounds of oncoming steel.

Perhaps your father's advice should be followed in other driving circumstances.

For example, it is best not to hesitate before slamming on the brakes to avoid running over a child who has stepped off the curb in front of you.

In the left turn scenario I've given you, though,

Don would encourage you to hesitate.

What do you think will happen if you are still sitting there when the light goes green for cross traffic? Is the lead vehicle likely to leap out of the starting gates and smash into you?

Sticks and stones, and being broadsided by an errant motorist, will break your bones, but an impatient honker won't hurt you.

Don goes so far as to say that you could stop and have lunch. That's what gave me the chuckle.

However ridiculous it sounds, he's right. I'd prefer that you stop, pull out a sandwich, and eat it

rather than automatically hit the gas on seeing the red light.

Relax. Take a deep breath. Wait until you see stopped vehicles in each of the oncoming lanes before you proceed.

If there's an oncoming lane without a stopped vehicle, slowly edge forward until you can see down the lane enough to ensure that an oncoming red-light-blower isn't going to fly out of there and hit you.

Don't worry about the cross traffic. You have the right-of-way under section 127(1)(a)(iii) of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Cross traffic has to yield the right-of-way because your vehicle was

lawfully in the intersection at the time the light for cross traffic changed to green.

Even though the red-light-blowing motorist is the one technically at fault in a left turn crash, every one of those crashes would be avoided if the left turning driver stopped to eat his or her lunch.

This column is intended to provide general information about injury claims. It is not a substitute for retaining a lawyer to provide legal advice specifically pertaining to your case. Paul Hergott is a lawyer at Hergott Law in West Kelowna.

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▼ LENETTA PARRY

Westside food bank names new executive director

Lenetta Parry has been named the new executive director of the Westside Community Food Bank.

"Ms. Parry brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion to the position and the board

looks forward to working with her," said Helen Holton, chair of the Westside Community Food Bank board of directors.

As executive director, Parry will be responsible for the day-to-day

management of the food bank; providing leadership to staff and volunteers and ensuring the strategic direction and policies of the organization are followed.

Parry said she is look-

ing forward to working with the Westside community to establish a larger presence in the community and improve client service delivery.

"Most of all, I am eager to meet staff, volunteers, donors and clients," said Parry.

Parry was recently the associate executive director for the Kelowna Community Food Bank.

She had been with the Kelowna food bank for more than seven years.

Although she says she will miss everyone, Parry is excited about the new challenge before her.

"It's always been a goal of mine to be the leader in a Human Service Organization" she said.

The Westside Community Food Bank has been in existence for more than 30 years, and is af-



Lenetta Parry

filiated with Food Banks Canada and Food Banks British Columbia.

The Westside food bank assists about 500 households per month, which is approximately 1,600 individuals per month with 40 per cent of those being children under the age of 15.

Parry is also known for her dedication in establishing the Central Okanagan Healthy Food Council; her work on the Poverty and Homelessness Action Team of the Central Okanagan; and her three years of service as a Food Banks B.C. board director.

Parry is also a long time resident of the Westside.

She assisted in the facilitation of the Westside Visioning Forum; she assumed the role as vice-chair on the Westside Naming Committee; and volunteers with Westside Daze. Born and raised in a family that is all about community, Parry has a passion for volunteerism, humanitarian work, politics and community development—dedicating her life to improving

the lives and community around her.

The board is extremely pleased to have someone of Parry's calibre as the next executive director, Holton said.

She will bring significant strengths to the position, including a passion for hunger relief and social justice.

Parry looks forward to help strengthen the food bank network across the Central Okanagan so that families and children receive the nutrition they need and deserve.

Parry's first official day at the Westside Community Food Bank was Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013.

The Westside Food Bank is located at 2545 Churchill Rd. and is open every week, Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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Westside Community
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