

RESOLUTION NO. 20160519-049

WHEREAS, Austin experiences 64 traffic deaths per year on average, with a record of 102 lost lives on Austin roads in 2015, and for each of those lost lives approximately eight serious injuries occur in other incidents; and

WHEREAS, this year, as of May 3, 2016, 22 people have lost their lives on our City's streets; and

WHEREAS, when health care and other related hard costs are included, fatal and injury crashes in Austin are estimated to cost the community over half a billion dollars annually; and

WHEREAS, City Council passed Resolution 20141120-103, creating the Vision Zero Task Force with direction to make recommendations to eliminate traffic deaths and serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, City Council passed Resolution 20151001-058, amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan to prioritize transportation system safety and commit the City "to eliminating transportation-related deaths and serious injuries through a holistic Vision Zero approach;" and

WHEREAS, since January 2015, the Vision Zero Task Force has researched transportation safety, studying Vision Zero implementation successes in other cities, and has worked collaboratively with multiple City of Austin departments, state and federal agencies, research institutions, and community groups to develop recommendations within the Vision Zero Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Action Plan outlines a multipronged approach to improving public safety through five strategies of enhanced Evaluation, Enforcement, Engineering, and Education, and evolving our public Policy; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Task Force effort identified high speeds (over 30 miles-per-hour) as being especially dangerous for people who are walking or biking, and the Institute of Transport Economics advises that “if government wants to develop a road transport system in which nobody is killed or permanently injured, speed is the most important factor to regulate;” and

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Task Force effort identified significant issues related to suspended license drivers and their contribution to fatal accidents; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Commission and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Councils further recommend adoption and implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to adopt and immediately implement the elements of the Vision Zero Action Plan identified as actionable using existing resources and partnerships, and provide an accounting of those elements in a report to Council at the August 2, 2016 work session. The report should in part include a plan for continued support for the Vision Zero Task Force through, for example, quarterly implementation meetings, production of an “Annual Vision Zero Report Card,” and path to integration of the Vision Zero Action Plan principles into the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to analyze short term action elements of the Vision Zero Action Plan that will require additional resources. For each such element, the City Manager shall provide an implementation plan for each of the five public safety strategies- Evaluation, Enforcement, Engineering, Education, and Policy- including potential funding plans for each, and report to Council at the August 2, 2016 work session for Council's consideration in anticipation of FY 2016-2017 budget discussions (with longer term action elements to be similarly analyzed through continued work by the City Manager and the Vision Zero Task Force).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to analyze existing and emerging transportation practices related to establishment of posted roadway speeds, with equal emphasis between high speed roadways, secondary streets, and neighborhood streets; identify methods and opportunities to reduce posted speed limits (especially in neighborhoods, and potentially as pilot project studies); and present a report on October 5, 2016 for consideration by the Council Mobility Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

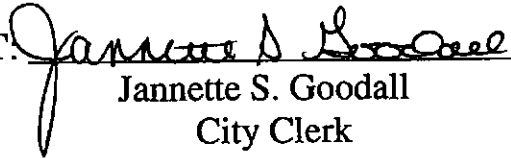
The City Manager is directed to identify cases involving drivers with suspended or no licenses involved in accidents resulting in injury or loss of life, analyze existing and emerging enforcement and prosecution practices related to those identified suspended license cases, and present a report to Council Health and Human Services Committee and Council Public Safety Committee by no later than October 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to implement the Vision Zero Action Plan with special consideration of vulnerable populations, especially within the public safety strategies of Enforcement and Education.

ADOPTED: May 19, 2016

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk