

November 10, 2016

Dear Mayor Silberberg, Vice-Mayor Wilson and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, I am pleased to inform you that the Commission is supporting the Resolution that directs the City Manager to form a working group to develop a Vision Zero action plan to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injury by 2028.

The recent death of a 90 year old woman while crossing Yoakum Parkway is a vivid example of the need to address this issue. Supporting Vision Zero as a comprehensive approach to eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries benefits not only seniors but ALL residents of Alexandria regardless of age.

Achieving the goal Vision Zero by 2028, requires a strong commitment from the City - one that includes a cross-disciplinary approach of education, engineering, enforcement and evaluation. The Commission is prepared to provide its expertise and support to supplement City staff and interdepartmental working groups to develop and implement the Plan. Notably, the Commission will make sure the community it serves - older residents - are part of the community engagement process and are represented in the Action Plan strategies.

We strongly urge Council to endorse Vision Zero, adopt the policy Resolution and direct staff to develop and execute a Vision Zero Plan.

Sincerely,

Carol Downs  
Chair  
Alexandria Commission on Aging



## Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities

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Mollie Danforth, Chair  
703.746.3140 Voice

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October 28, 2016

The Honorable Allison Silberberg  
Members of City Council  
City Hall, 301 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Silberberg and Council members,

The Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) voted to support the adoption of Vision Zero by the City of Alexandria, at its October meeting.

The Commission noted that Vision Zero is a data based approach to reducing traffic fatalities. We do not believe accident reports in current use include notes on the disability status of persons involved in traffic accidents. We encourage the city to include disability status as part of all accident reports.

The Commission also supports sufficient funding to implement Vision Zero. There must be financial commitment to avoid just lip service to lowering traffic fatalities. For example, Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) has stated that replacing diagonal crosswalks with safer perpendicular crosswalks is their policy, but in almost no case have perpendicular crosswalks been used because the cost of reworking corners is too great. Diagonal crosswalks are unsafe for those with vision impairments, those in wheel chairs, and mothers with large prams. Yet we continue to reinstall diagonal crosswalks.

Vision Zero should be adopted and implemented by Alexandria. It's goal of zero traffic fatalities is both laudable and doable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mollie Danforth".

Mollie Danforth, Chair



Public Health  
Advisory Commission  
of Alexandria, VA

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January 5, 2017

Dear Madam Mayor and Members of City Council,

As the chair of the Public Health Advisory Commission (PHAC), I am writing to provide support for the Resolution endorsing Vision Zero and its goal to end traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on Alexandria's streets by 2028.

PHAC has been reviewing pedestrian and bicycle accidents in the City (as highlighted in our April 2016 commissioned report *Alexandria Fire Department Response to Pedestrians Struck and Bicycle Crashes*) and considers Vision Zero to be a dynamic and data-driven approach for addressing traffic injuries and deaths while promoting safer streets. Our report reveals that Alexandria has high rates of pedestrian and bicycle injuries. In fact, the report found that pedestrian injuries reported to the Fire Department are 2.3 times the national Healthy People 2020 benchmark goal. We also have reason to believe that the number of bicycle and pedestrian injuries are underreported. Both of these indicators support Section 2 of the Resolution, which recommends conducting a comprehensive analysis of traffic deaths and injuries in Alexandria and will require identifying optimal data sources and determining more accurate incident numbers.

With Alexandria's pride and reputation of being exceptionally bicycle and pedestrian friendly, it's appropriate that it would be the first municipality in the Commonwealth to adopt Vision Zero, which has proven to be successful in other cities in the US and internationally. In addition to reducing traffic deaths and injury, Vision Zero's goals include increasing safety and equitable mobility. This focus on equitable mobility – facilitating social and economic transportation opportunities – support the public health objective of access to walkable and bikeable streets as one of the best measures of a healthy community.

PHAC thanks you for your consideration of the Vision Zero Resolution and hopes to be an integral partner in its adoption and implementation as it addresses the goals of improving public safety and optimizing the healthy living environment of the City of Alexandria.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katya Wanzer".

Katya Wanzer, MPH  
Chair, Public Health Advisory Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ann Harbour".

Ann Harbour, MPA  
Vice Chair, Public Health Advisory Commission