

INTRODUCED: February 22, 2016

A RESOLUTION No. 2016-R011

To support the development of a Vision Zero program in the City of Richmond with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic to zero by the year 2030.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrons – All Members of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as to form and legality  
by the City Attorney  
\_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING: MAR 7 2016 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a multinational road traffic safety project that began in Sweden in 1997 and aims to achieve a highway system with no fatalities or serious injuries in road traffic; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Sweden, Vision Zero programs have been implemented in Canada, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and several cities within the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond's Highway Safety Commission recommends that the City adopt a Vision Zero program with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic to zero by the year 2030; and

AYES:            8            NOES:            0            ABSTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_

ADOPTED:    MAR 7 2016    REJECTED: \_\_\_\_\_    STRICKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Highway Safety Commission also recommends that the Council request that the Department of Planning and Development Review, the Department of Police, and the Department of Public Works each formulate a comprehensive plan designed to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries in road traffic by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City has submitted an application for the United States Department of Transportation Smart City Challenge, in which the City is competing with other localities nationwide for a grant in the amount of \$50,000,000 to implement intelligent transportation systems technologies to improve surface transportation performance, reduce congestion, promote safety for travelers, protect the environment, respond to climate change, connect underserved communities, and support economic vitality within the selected locality; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that its support for a Vision Zero program in the City will result in a favorable review of the City's application for the Smart City Challenge; and

WHEREAS, the Council also believes that it is in the best interest of the residents of the city of Richmond that the Council support the development of a Vision Zero program in the City of Richmond with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic to zero by the year 2030 and that the Council request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Planning and Development Review, the Department of Police, and the Department of Public Works to each formulate a comprehensive plan designed to achieve this goal;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

That the Council supports the development of a Vision Zero program in the City of Richmond with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic to zero by the year 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Council hereby requests that the Chief Administrative Officer cause the Department of Planning and Development Review, the Department of Police, and the Department of Public Works to each formulate a comprehensive plan designed to reduce traffic fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic to zero by the year 2030.



# Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

## Ordinance/Resolution Request

**TO** Allen Jackson, City Attorney

**THROUGH** Lou Ali, Council Chief of Staff *W* **P** **D**

**FROM** Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst *ST* **FEB 05 2016**

**COPY** J. Baliles, 1st District Council Member **OFFICE CITY ATTORNEY**  
 Eli Wong, 1st District Liaison  
 Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney  
 Vincent Jones, Council Deputy Chief of Staff *V. Jones*

**DATE** February 5, 2016

**PAGE/s** 1 of 2

**TITLE** A Resolution supporting Vision Zero in the City with the Goal of Zero Traffic Fatalities in the City of Richmond by 2030

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance**  **Resolution**

**REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON**

J. Baliles

**SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE**

Land Use, Housing and Transportation

### ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

The patron requests that a resolution be drafted for City Council's consideration that expresses City Council's support for the Vision Zero program, as recommended by the Richmond Highway Safety Commission. The Richmond Highway Safety Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the program and recommended the attached resolution as a model for City Council consideration.

The proposed model resolves that it is the will of the City Council to pursue a goal of reducing traffic fatalities in the City to zero by the year 2030. The model resolution further resolves that City Council requests that the Richmond Highway Safety Commission, Department of Planning and Review, the Police Department and the Department of Public Works work to prevent traffic fatalities in the City.

### BACKGROUND

The Richmond Highway Safety Commission recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution in support of a Vision Zero program for the City in order to support the

Richmond's application for the Smart City's Challenge. The Richmond Highway Safety Commission proposed that City Council adopts its proposed Vision Zero Resolution. The Commission further recommends that City pursue goals and develop programs leading to zero traffic injuries and fatalities in the City by 2030. This goal would be achieved through a combination of engineering, law enforcement, emergency response, and education.

Vision Zero programs began in Sweden, during the 1990's, when its Parliament adopted goals and strategies to achieve zero traffic fatalities in that country. Since that time other nations have adopted similar programs.

#### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact Yes  No

Budget Amendment Required Yes  No

Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact \$ N/A

**Note:** Resolution will be used to support the City's application for \$50,000,000 in federal grants to help improve traffic safety and prevent fatalities.

Attachment/s Yes  No  Copy of the Highway Safety Commission draft resolution

Vision Zero Resolution – Proposed January 20, 2016  
By the Richmond Highway Safety Commission  
Adopted January 20, 2016

**A RESOLUTION** endorsing Vision Zero, for the City of Richmond to strive to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on Richmond streets by 2030.

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond Highway Safety Commission was founded in 1966 to formulate a highway safety program for the City of Richmond and to conduct quarterly reviews of the operation and effect of such a program;

**WHEREAS**, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the residents of the City of Richmond that the Council continue to support the efforts of the Highway Safety Commission;

**WHEREAS**, transportation is an important part of the built environment and significantly influences physical activity and well-being, safety, and the ability of community members to access destinations that are essential to a healthy lifestyle;

**WHEREAS**, connecting people and places safely and efficiently enhances the economy, health, and well-being of visitors and residents of the City;

**WHEREAS**, the worldwide Vision Zero movement is founded on the belief that death and injury on city streets is unacceptable and preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, Vision Zero aims to achieve zero fatalities and zero serious injuries in the roadway, and has successfully reduced fatalities and serious injuries in cities where it has been implemented; and;

**WHEREAS**, Vision Zero or similar initiatives have been adopted or are being developed by multiple U.S. cities and States, including: New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles and 38 states by committing to reducing traffic fatalities to zero in the next ten years after similar VISION ZERO recommendations implemented in Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom produced positive results;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S Department of Transportation, through the Mayor's Challenge for Safe People, Safer Streets has challenged mayors and local elected officials to take significant action to improve the safety of transportation networks for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, streets are the public realm and should be designed to a higher standard as beautiful, safe and comfortable places for all people, in order to equitably support the common good and the City of Richmond's Vision statement: "To Build the Best Richmond"; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety and welfare of residents, employees and visitors to Richmond is the highest priority; and

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**WHEREAS**, The City continues to experience a regrettable loss of life annually, constituting a public health crisis, with 2012 to 2014 experiencing a combined loss of life with 37 fatalities and 8,124 serious injuries for a combined annual comprehensive economic loss of \$150 Million; and

**WHEREAS**, one out of every five injury crashes involves a driver operating without a license or on a suspended or revoked license.

**WHEREAS**, The Commission has convened multiple hearings on transportation safety which reveal an urgent need for action on a combined strategy of engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Richmond completed the Bicycle Master Plan in 2015 to reduce serious or fatal injuries, develop recommended infrastructure projects, and which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Richmond adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2014, with a major focus on safety for all road users; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Richmond has endorsed the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street Design Guide to recognize that streets must be safe, sustainable, resilient, multi-modal and economically beneficial for all users; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Richmond completed Richmond Connects, a strategic, multimodal transportation plan in 2013 to reduce serious or fatal injuries, develop recommended infrastructure projects and which is hereby declared to be a part of this resolution as if set forth fully herein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Element of the Richmond Comprehensive Plan provides policy intent and support for a wide range of traffic safety measures; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond implements programs, services and standards that are foundational to the Vision Zero movement that utilizes education, targeted enforcement, implementation of best design practices, provides encouragement and incorporates evaluation to enhance traffic safety; and

**WHEREAS**, The Department of Public Works (DPW) in partnership with the Richmond Health Department developed a methodology to identify high injury corridors that should be targeted for transportation safety improvements and the resulting data and map of high injury corridors have been shared with the Commission for purposes of targeting traffic enforcement in order to save lives; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple initiatives and events have focused on the need for improvements to transportation safety, including: the Commonwealth of Virginia's Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Bike Walk RVA, state

Vision Zero Resolution – Proposed January 20, 2016  
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legislation, Richmond Health District Injury Prevention and Chronic disease initiatives, Safe and Healthy Streets Program, among others; and

**WHEREAS**, no city plan comprehensively addresses the multifaceted nature of transportation safety for the City of Richmond; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple boards and commissions, departments and community organizations support the creation of a Vision Zero Task Force, including: the Mayor's office, the Richmond Highway Safety Commission, the City of Richmond Department of Public Works, the Richmond Police Department, the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, Bike Walk RVA (a program of Sports Backers), Bike Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond Highway Safety Commission has led the effort to establish Vision Zero for Richmond and has already performed significant research and has established strong community interest and support for Vision Zero;

**WHEREAS**, examples of Richmond's traffic safety programs and services include the transportation safety asset maintenance services (traffic signals, signs, and pavement markings for all users), the Safe and Healthy Streets Program, Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program, police enforcement, and school zone safety and work zone safety initiatives;

**WHEREAS**, the City, in partnership with the Highway Safety Commission, is participating in the Smart City Challenge as presented by the United States Department of Transportation and Vulcan Philanthropy using a "safe and healthy streets" approach for their upcoming grant proposal submittal;

**WHEREAS**, the City's "safe and healthy streets" approach identifies that approximately 40 percent of the death and severe injuries occur on major Federal and State routes comprising approximately 10 percent of the city's street network;

**WHEREAS**, non-motorized safety is extremely important in these streets where higher motorized traffic volumes and speeds exist and the documented crash risk (with actual non-motorized crashes) demonstrate higher exposure for people that walk and bike;

**WHEREAS**, the City has received preliminary notification of up to \$5,000,000 in Highway Safety Improvement Program funds are to be allocated to implement the "safe and healthy streets" approach and improve pedestrian safety through systemic, proven, low-cost countermeasures.



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Adopted January 20, 2016

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council should request the Commission to work with all interested and involved city agencies to develop and expedite the goals of Vision Zero to reduce transportation fatalities to zero by 2030 through engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response. The Task Force should include a broad and diverse stakeholder community to ensure the breadth of transportation safety issues is addressed. The Commission should report on this policy development, along with any recommendations, to Council by January 1, 2017.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** That the Council should request the Department of Planning and Development Review to revise the City's Comprehensive Plan through amendment to include incorporating Vision Zero and providing the policy framework to advance transportation safety improvements in a coordinated manner throughout the Richmond transportation system;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Council should request the Richmond Police Department to target its enforcement to known high-injury corridors and intersections and to the most dangerous traffic crimes including speeding, failure to stop, failure to yield, turning violations and violation of the pedestrian and cyclist right of way, and to track and report on the total number of citations for the most high-risk driving violations;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Council should request the Department of Public Works to create a "crisis intervention" team in collaboration with other city agencies, which would be tasked with engineering and implementing at least ten safety projects over the next two years in the corridors where data demonstrates the high number and/or severity of traffic collisions, including curb extensions, traffic signal retiming, traffic calming measures, separated bike lanes and that the two year pilot period be used to analyze progress toward our goal of zero traffic fatalities by 2030; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** for Council to endorse Vision Zero as part of a comprehensive effort to achieve zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on Richmond streets by 2030.