



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Quinton Lucas and Distinguished Members of the City Council
City of Kansas City, Missouri
City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Dear Mayor Lucas and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of LISC Greater Kansas City, I write to express our strong support for Vision Zero and urge you to adopt Committee Substitute for Resolution No. 200019, which sets into motion actions to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries in our community, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. LISC partners with residents and stakeholders to forge resilient and inclusive communities of opportunity – great places to live, work, visit, do business, and raise families. We believe Vision Zero will enhance our community by advancing active transportation, increasing mobility and access, and promoting healthy community design in our built environment.

LISC was proud to support Kansas City's Complete Streets ordinance (No. 170949) in 2017 and has continued to work to increase the health and safety of our residents and neighborhoods. With appreciation for the support of the Health Forward Foundation, we are currently working with the Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council and the Blue Hills Neighborhood Association on projects to increase safety and physical activity in their neighborhoods. At the annual Community Development Workshop in February, we were pleased to have representatives from Ivanhoe and Blue Hills share progress on their work, as well as lead a panel discussion on the importance of Vision Zero featuring Councilman Eric Bunch, KC Regional Transit Alliance, and BikeWalkKC. Vision Zero received such positive feedback from the 50 session participants (made up of neighborhood leaders, health administrators, and nonprofits), that one said "you made traffic safety sexy!"

Recently, in a two week timeframe from March 16-30, KCPD responded to 419 crashes, including one fatality and 134 injury crashes, an increase of 36 injury crashes during that same timeframe in 2019. This increase happened despite a 49% drop in passenger traffic from the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. These crashes are preventable. Each year, over 50 people are killed in traffic crashes in Kansas City - and hundreds more seriously injured. Nearly half of all crashes occur in "Environmental Justice" census tracts with high populations of people of color and those living with low-income, yet only 30% of our City's population resides in those same census tracts. Consequently, it is imperative we treat this matter as more than a safety issue, but also as a public health and equity issue.

Throughout the United States, and in Kansas City, traffic injuries and fatalities disproportionately harm the elderly, people of color, and people living in low-income communities. A Pedestrian Crash Analysis conducted by the Mid-America Regional Council identified high priority corridors along Troost Ave., Prospect Ave., and Independence Ave., among others, that needed more focus. Furthermore, data indicates that pedestrians and other vulnerable road users are significantly overrepresented among those killed or seriously injured in area traffic crashes.

Vision Zero initiatives have been adopted by cities and states across the country. We urge you to join this movement by adopting this comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030. Your leadership in passing Resolution No. 200019 will create safer streets, walkable neighborhoods, and improved mobility options for all of Kansas City's residents. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Geoff Jolley
Executive Director