



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. __

RESOLUTION

R – 2024

Introduced by the Administration on January 17, 2024

Authorizes the City of Allentown to adopt a Vision Zero Policy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe, traffic-related injuries. This will be implemented by using data-driven policy changes and engaging stakeholders in the community to design and actualize a transportation system that provides safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. This Vision Zero Policy seeks to achieve its purpose by (1) establishing that Vision Zero is a priority for the City of Allentown and (2) creating a Vision Zero task force of senior city officials (or their designees) that is responsible for gathering data, working with the community to develop an action plan for executing the goals of Vision Zero, and utilizing equity-focused strategies that establish safe speeds, safe streets, and foster a culture of safety and collaboration.

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, That

WHEREAS, the life and health of all persons living and traveling within the City of Allentown is our utmost priority, and no persons should fear potential death or serious injury while traveling on our city streets; and

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero policy understands that traffic deaths and serious injuries on our roadways are unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a holistic strategy aimed at eliminating all traffic fatalities and severe injuries suffered by all road users while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility by using data-driven policy changes; and

WHEREAS, streets and transportation systems have traditionally been designed to primarily navigate cars efficiently, and Vision Zero supports a paradigm shift by designing streets and transportation systems to move all people safely, including people of all ages and abilities: pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users, as well as drivers and passengers of motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero recognizes that people will sometimes make mistakes, so road systems and related policies should be designed to ensure that those inevitable mistakes do not result in severe injuries or fatalities; consequently, transportation planners, engineers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies, and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes; and

WHEREAS, speed is recognized as a major determining factor of survival in a crash, and Vision Zero shares a process to work towards reducing vehicle speeds to 25 MPH on local roads; and

WHEREAS, children, older adults, people of color, people with disabilities, people who are unhoused, and people with low income face a disproportionate risk of traffic injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, making streets safer for all people using all modes of transportation and encourage people to travel on foot, by bicycle, and by public transit, which supports a healthier, more active lifestyle and reduces environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, successful Vision Zero programs are a result of both a complete government approach (i.e., interdepartmental, coordinated initiatives) and community support of Vision Zero objectives and action plans; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 3,506 total collisions in Allentown, of which 141 were pedestrian related; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 59 suspected serious injuries in Allentown, of which 13 were pedestrian related; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 10 vehicle-related deaths in Allentown, of which 5 were pedestrian related; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Allentown, Pennsylvania, adopts the goal of zero deaths, stating that no loss of life is acceptable on our streets.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED the City of Allentown adopts the goal of eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2030 and endorses Vision Zero as a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving this goal.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED the City of Allentown adopts the goal of collecting, analyzing, and using data to understand trends and any potential disproportionate effects of traffic related incidents on our communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the City of Allentown will create a Vision Zero task force and advisory group to develop and implement an action plan that is guided by community input.