



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN , Janey, Bok,
Edwards, Breadon, Essaibi-George, Mejia Arroyo, Flaherty, Wu, Campbell,
O'Malley and **CITY OF BOSTON** Baker
IN CITY COUNCIL

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PEDESTRIAN SAFETY,
TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT, AND VISION ZERO**

- WHEREAS:** Pedestrian safety is a critical component of public safety and overall quality of life for our residents, and the City of Boston is committed to pedestrian safety as part of Vision Zero - the goal of having zero serious and fatal traffic crashes; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The city lowered its default speed limit on neighborhood streets from 30mph to 25mph in 2017, and the City Council has supported further lowering the speed limit to 20mph, a measure that the Mayor has supported; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Lowering the speed limit can effectively reduce traffic and pedestrian fatalities, but enforcement of this speed limit and other traffic laws is equally important in achieving Vision Zero; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Last week, a pedestrian was fatally struck by a vehicle near Andrew Square in South Boston, and another pedestrian was struck by a pickup truck at the entrance of the Public Garden when the truck crashed into a stone pillar; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Crashes that occur in Boston remind us of the work that must be done to realize Vision Zero in terms of the infrastructure improvements, slower speeds and enforcement needed to address pedestrian and traffic safety, not just in the Downtown and South Boston areas but also in neighborhoods all across our city where traffic has gradually increased over the years; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Even as we see less traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic, we witness vehicles viewing these open, or less congested, roads as a license to speed and put the safety and lives of our neighbors in danger. We need to continue to focus on infrastructure improvements and changes to our streetscape to ensure that our pedestrians are safe in our community; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents throughout the city have called attention to concurrent signals that allow for pedestrians to cross the street at the same time that vehicles have a signal to turn at an intersection; *and*
- WHEREAS:** While lowering the speed limit and the Slow Streets initiative are great measures to ensure pedestrian safety, we should also look at additional changes to our built environment and measures such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, road diets, rapid flash

beacons, changing all traffic lights to red when pedestrian crossing signal is activated, and other safety improvements; *and*

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss ways to improve pedestrian safety, provide better traffic enforcement, and achieve Vision Zero in our city. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: October 7th, 2020