

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

August 30, 2022

County Response to Windsor Hills Fatalities And Fast-Tracking Solutions to Increased Traffic Fatalities Countywide

On August 4th, 2022, around 1:30 p.m., the Second District community of Windsor Hills witnessed an unimaginable tragedy when a driver, traveling at speeds up to 100 miles per hour, drove through the intersection of Slauson Avenue and La Brea Avenue and killed five people, including a pregnant mother and an infant. Eight others were also injured in the crash, including six children.

Disturbingly, traffic fatalities have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and reckless speeding, street takeovers, and erratic driver behavior has become widespread. We need to explore the availability of additional tools to improve our infrastructure and to hold people accountable to mitigate dangerous driver behavior and keep people alive.

With multiple jurisdictions involved in responding to that horrific crash, the County of Los Angeles must be united in its approach to emergency incidents. The County of Los Angeles should increase its efforts to inform communities about its Vision Zero Action Plan and implementation targets amongst other concrete actions. Residents and communities need to feel reassured by government response to tragic events and this motion takes steps towards being a better provider of public goods to the community.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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MOTION

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1. Direct the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to contract with a third-party to conduct an after-action review into the response of the incident on La Brea Ave. and Slauson Ave. on August 4, 2022 under the oversight of and to be reviewed by County Counsel, and report back to the Board in writing in 60 days on protocols to improve incident response;
2. Direct the Director of DPW to explore and take appropriate actions to slow down excessive speeds on La Brea Ave. and Slauson Ave. and surrounding areas including, but not limited to, consideration of off-the-shelf and/or quick-build safety improvements, based on a traffic engineering evaluation within 30 days;
3. Direct the Chief Executive Office (CEO) Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) division to 1) explore what State and/or local statutory changes may be needed to allow the County to regulate excessive speed, including, but not limited to, deploying automated speed enforcement and red-light cameras at key intersections on unincorporated streets, and 2) if State statutory changes are needed, direct CEO LAIR to sponsor or support State legislation, as appropriate;
4. Direct the Director of DPW to evaluate and develop a draft program design with extensive data collection that would identify high priority intersections and a program framework that prioritizes speed reduction, equity, and justice. Direct the Director of DPW to vet the program design through the CEO Office of Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion, along with community-based organizations and report back to the Board in writing within 90 days;
5. Direct the Director of DPW to develop a Community Traffic Safety plan in the Windsor Hills/Ladera Heights neighborhood, with traffic engineering reviews that include, but are not limited to, the feasibility of designs for road diets to curb excessive speeding, signal modifications, and residential speed mitigation throughout the community. As part of the Community Traffic Safety Plan, DPW must partner with community-based organizations on engagement for proposed design changes. The Director of DPW must report back in writing

within 60 days on an implementation strategy and within 6 months on a final Community Traffic Safety plan;

6. Direct the Director of DPW, in collaboration with the CEO and the Director of the Department of Public Health, to identify funding sources and resources for the above work, along with a cost estimate that includes full-time positions to accelerate the delivery of the Vision Zero Action Plan in the County. Direct the Director of DPW to report back to the Board in writing in 90 days on the potential funding sources, necessary staffing, and estimated costs. DPW should also include this in their department budget request for Fiscal Year 2023 - 24. The report back should include comparison to funding in jurisdictions across the nation with adopted Vision Zero Action Plans, with populations of 1 million or more; and
7. Direct the CEO to explore centralizing all transportation related functions in the County, including traffic control, traffic investigations, mobility design, signal operations, planning, data analysis, parking enforcement, etc., with an effort to increase transparency and accountability directly to the Board and to unincorporated communities, and report back in writing in 120 days on recommendations.

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