

## **RESOLUTION IMPLEMENTING VISION ZERO INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Savannah is responsible for providing reasonable protections for the public health and safety of its residents, including access to reasonably safe streets, sidewalks, and transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, City streets should be maintained in a reasonably safe condition for use by the public; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, more than 40,000 lives are needlessly lost on American streets, and thousands more are injured; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of people struck and killed by drivers nationwide while walking increased by 45% over the last decade; and

**WHEREAS**, older adults, people of color, and people walking in low-income communities are disproportionately represented in fatal crashes; even after accounting for population sizes and walking rate differences; and

**WHEREAS**, between 2013 and 2020, there were 169 traffic fatalities and 924 serious injuries in Savannah, Georgia; an average of over 21 fatalities and 115 serious injuries per year; and

**WHEREAS**, Georgia ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the most dangerous state for people to travel, with 1,700 traffic fatalities in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the most frequently reported cause of fatal crashes are unsafe speeds, violations of pedestrian and bicycle rights-of-way, running signals and stop signs, and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Savannah acknowledges that serious traffic crashes are preventable, that fatal and severe crashes can be significantly diminished through a Safe Systems approach, and saving life is an objective of the highest order; and

**WHEREAS**, it would be beneficial to adopt a comprehensive plan to address the multifaceted nature of traffic safety in the City of Savannah; and

**WHEREAS**, Vision Zero aims to achieve zero traffic 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**, commitment to Vision Zero can achieve safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all road users by providing a holistic approach to road safety, infrastructure improvements, and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, the design of the public rights-of-way has a significant impact upon driver behavior, and complete streets and effective street design operate to save lives.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah hereby **RESOLVE** to launch the city-wide Vision Zero initiative with the aim of zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries within the City limits by the year 2027: public safety shall be a priority in designing and building the City's public rights-of-way.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Savannah commits to develop a Vision Zero action plan within 12 months of the adoption of this Resolution by inviting partnerships with communities, institutional partners, businesses, non-profit and community-based organizations, and residents, as well as collaborating with surrounding communities in achieving this goal. This body also commits to re-evaluating these goals and associated planning efforts at least once every 2 years, as policies, funding opportunities, and economic feasibility of this commitment evolve.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Savannah will establish and monitor interim targets in the reduction of traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2024.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Savannah will establish a Vision Zero Steering Committee, to include a broad and diverse stakeholder community, to coordinate, implement, and evaluate near-term and longer-term actions.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Savannah will develop and implement policies and programs that lead to a comprehensive effort to successfully support this initiative.

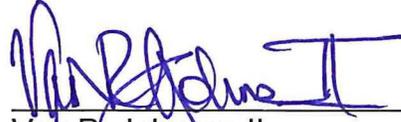
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that to the extent practicable the City of Savannah will develop procedures for implementing Complete Streets, Traffic Calming Measures, and Street Redesign, with an equitable approach to all City rights-of-way.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City may request additional funds in subsequent fiscal year budgets and will actively pursue grant opportunities, as well as State and Federal partnerships to be used solely for the purpose of this resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that these efforts will work in a manner to redress historical inequities related to pedestrian safety and mobility city-wide to ensure reasonably complete and safe streets for all Savannahians.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, nothing contain herein shall be construed to waive the City's sovereign immunity, nor shall it be construed to assume duties or obligations pertaining to its rights-of-way beyond those imposed by federal, state, or local law.

ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.



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Van R. Johnson II  
Mayor

ATTEST:



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Mark Massey  
Clerk of Council

