



MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Marvista.org

Community Impact Statement



TITLE: [Council File 23-1051 \(Accident/Collision/Crash/Incident/California Department of Transportation/Traffic Crashes\)](#)

COMMITTEE: Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (T&I) Committee

POSITION: SUPPORT

THE MOTION: The Mar Vista Neighborhood Council supports this motion and asks that the city change its vernacular to “crash”, “collision”, or “incident” in lieu of “accident”.

BACKGROUND: The word “accident” – when referring to a car crash, a car versus pedestrian crash, or a car versus cyclist crash – implies that such a crash was a mistake that could not have been avoided.

While this is occasionally the case, many crashes can be avoided. For example, we can introduce interventions that physically discourage speeding and unsafe driving, lower speed limits, add speed humps, and do many other things that act as preventative measures for crashes. Furthermore, there are instances when, in spite of these preventative measures, a person still drives unsafely or impaired. In these cases, using the word “accident” is not only incorrect, but is also disrespectful to the victims of traffic violence.

There were 312 traffic fatalities in Los Angeles in 2022, the first time it had topped 300 in 20 years. There were particularly deadly consequences for pedestrians and cyclists, with a 19% and 11% rise in deaths since 2021 for those groups, respectively. As of the beginning of September, there have been 206 traffic-related deaths.

There are many possible ways to respond to this tragic rise in traffic fatalities, and one of them is to be more intentional in the way we talk about them. The Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, and the California Department of Transportation have already adopted this policy. The City should follow suit and do likewise.

DIRECTED TO: Heather Hutt, Chair of the LA City Council Transportation Committee, and Katy Yaroslavsky, Member of the LA City Council Transportation Committee and Councilmember for District 5 representing part of Mar Vista



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ACTION/VOTE COUNT:

MVCC T&I Committee meeting, MONTH 1st, 2023

Motion of support moved by XXXX, seconded by XXXX

Motion of XXXX approved by MVCC T&I Committee XX-XX-XX

MVCC Board Meeting, MONTH 1st, 2023

Motion of support moved by Director XXX, seconded by Director XXX

Motion of support approved by the MVCC Board XX-XX-XX