

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN AND COUNCILOR BAKER**

Breadon, Flaherty, Bok, Essaibi-George, Campbell, Arroyo, Wu, O'Malley and Mejia

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**HEARING TO DISCUSS SPEEDING CARS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH  
EMERGENCY & ADDRESS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**



**WHEREAS:** Pedestrian and road safety is a critical component of not only public safety and overall quality of life for our residents, but it is also a public health issue as unsafe traffic conditions can be a leading cause for injuries and deaths; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Recently, two pedestrians were fatally struck by vehicles in South Boston, one at Andrew Square and another on First St, 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:** Just last week, there were four separate incidents where cars crashed into buildings or light poles in South Boston - on L St, Broadway and Old Colony Ave -causing not only injuries, but also displacing families and businesses. In Dorchester, there was a motor vehicle crash that resulted in an SUV rollover with a baby inside as well two pedestrians struck while in the crosswalk during broad daylight, both on the same day; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Even as we see less traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic, many drivers treat these less congested roads as a license to speed or drive recklessly, putting the safety and health of our pedestrians and neighbors at risk; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Advocates, researchers, and public health organizations have discussed the link between road safety and public health, with the World Health Organization highlighting road safety as a public health issue due to the high incidence of death and injuries caused by traffic back back in 2004, and the New York State Department of Health identifies motor vehicle traffic injuries as a major public health problem; *and*

**WHEREAS:** These recent crashes remind us of the work that must be done to realize Vision Zero in terms of the infrastructure improvements to our built environment, slower speeds, and enforcement needed to address pedestrian and traffic safety, and the urgency that we need to act with; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Declaring speeding cars and unsafe roads as a Public Health Emergency will help to raise public awareness and elevate this issue to facilitate the attention and urgency required, and allow our dedicated city departments and the Boston Public Health Commission to work together to develop strategies to reduce car crashes and traffic fatalities and injuries; *and*

**WHEREAS:** While lowering the speed limit, enforcement, and other initiatives are measures to ensure pedestrian safety, we should also look at additional traffic calming measures such as speed humps, raised crosswalks, curb extensions, road diets, rapid flash beacons, implement exclusive pedestrian crossing signals, and other safety improvements; *and*

**THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the Boston City Council discusses speeding cars as a Public Health Emergency and the infrastructure improvements to address this issue, and that the relevant Boston city departments work together with the Boston Public Health Commission to develop strategies to ensure pedestrian safety and reduce traffic fatalities and injuries.

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