

RESOLUTION NO. 051-2025(MSES), *First Reading*

By Mayor Seren

A Resolution amending and adopting the City of Cleveland Heights' support for the ideals, principles, and concepts of Vision Zero, affirming that the acceptable number of annual traffic deaths is zero, and establishing the goal of achieving zero annual traffic fatalities in the City by 2030; and declaring the necessity that this legislation become immediately effective as an emergency measure.

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights prides itself on being a walkable city with sidewalks on almost all City streets; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights is also a Bicycle Friendly Community with many sharrows and bike lanes around the City; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights also has transit service provided by the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority ("RTA") and University Circle ("UCI"); and

WHEREAS, all users of Cleveland Heights roadways are vulnerable to accidents; and

WHEREAS, "roadway" includes streets, roads, lanes, courts, alleys, trails, bikeways, sidewalks, multipurpose paths, bicycle lanes, pedestrian crossings, or other improvements, structures, infrastructures, appurtenances, or improvements within or adjacent to the public right of way; and

WHEREAS, the overarching goal of the Vision Zero movement is that the acceptable number of annual traffic deaths is zero, and this Council believes that such a goal is appropriate and attainable, as has been demonstrated in other cities around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland Heights's award-winning Complete and Green Streets Policy is compatible with Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, studies and history show that traffic crashes and collisions are often the result of human error and that many such traffic crashes and collisions might be avoided, mitigated, or ameliorated by the application of roadway design and engineering practices recognizing human error as such a cause; and

WHEREAS, the City, through its various Departments, can prioritize the goal of zero traffic fatalities in the planning of future projects, facilities, or operations where there is a foreseeable potential of one or more traffic-related fatalities by implementing the roadway design plans and engineering practices that underlie Vision Zero; and

RESOLUTION NO. 051-2025(MSES)

WHEREAS, the City initially adopted a Vision Zero Policy in 2021 via Resolution No. 96-2021; and

WHEREAS, the City now wishes to amend that Vision Zero Policy to set a target date for achievement of zero traffic deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. This Council hereby amends and adopts Vision Zero for the City of Cleveland Heights, with the goal of achieving zero annual traffic fatalities in the City by 2030.

SECTION 2. This Council authorizes and directs the Mayor to have City Departments cooperate and coordinate to prioritize the goal of zero traffic fatalities in the planning of future projects, facilities, or operations where there is a foreseeable potential of one or more traffic-related fatalities by using the roadway design and engineering practices underlying Vision Zero.

SECTION 3. Nothing in this Resolution shall be so interpreted or construed as to create any liability or strict liability upon the City where none has previously existed, nor shall any person be entitled to pursue any case in law or equity seeking to impose such a liability where none has heretofore existed.

SECTION 4. It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

SECTION 5. Notice of the passage of this Resolution shall be given by publishing the title and abstract of its contents, prepared by the Director of Law, once in one newspaper of general circulation in the City of Cleveland Heights or by posting the full text of this Resolution to the City of Cleveland Heights website.

SECTION 6. It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective as an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the inhabitants of the City of Cleveland Heights, such emergency being the need to be compliant with the requirements of the Safe Streets and Roadways for All (SS4A) Program. Wherefore, provided it receives the affirmative vote of five (5) or more of the members elected or appointed to this Council, this Resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest time allowed by law.

RESOLUTION NO. 051-2025(MSES)



TONY CUD
President of Council



ADDIE BALESTER
Clerk of Council

PASSED: April 7,2025

Presented to Mayor: 04/11/2025 Approved: 04/17/2025



KAHLIL SEREN
Mayor