

Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner, who chairs the County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, will hold a "Day of Action" focused on traffic safety on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The Day of Action, which will begin at 7 a.m., will be held near the communities along Massachusetts Avenue and River Road in Bethesda that have been the scenes of fatal traffic accidents in recent weeks. **EDITORS NOTE: Resolutions on Day of Action from Glen Mar Park and Mohican Hills communities are also attached.**

Montgomery County Councilmember Berliner to Hold 'Day of Action' on Traffic Safety on Tuesday, Nov. 3

*He Will Join Community Members at
Massachusetts Avenue and River Road Sites Where
Recent Traffic Fatalities Occurred to Urge Focus
on Road Safety*

ROCKVILLE, Md., October 27, 2015—Montgomery County Councilmember Roger Berliner, who chairs the County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee, will hold a "Day of Action" focused on traffic safety on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The Day of Action, which will begin at 7 a.m., will be held near the communities along Massachusetts Avenue and River Road in Bethesda that have been the scenes of fatal traffic accidents in recent weeks.

On Aug. 28, Tim Holden, a bicyclist, was killed in a crash on Massachusetts Avenue. On Oct. 21, Marge Wyro, a pedestrian, was killed trying to cross River Road.

The Day of Action will begin at 7 a.m. at the Little Falls Library (5501 Massachusetts Avenue in Bethesda) and then will continue at the corner of River Road and Springfield Drive in Bethesda at 8 a.m.

"In the wake of these two tragedies, residents have been asking, 'What can we do now?' And my answer in this moment is this: We have to mobilize. We have to show the State how important getting these two roads right is for our community," said Councilmember Berliner, who is the Council's representative on the countywide Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.

The Day of Action will allow local residents and elected officials to gather and to raise awareness about the traffic issues on this corridor. The Maryland Secretary of Transportation, the State Highway Administrator and the District 16 representatives to the Maryland General Assembly have been invited. Councilmember Berliner reached out to Secretary Pete Rahn personally today. Councilmember Berliner and Delegate Marc Korman had previously jointly asked the State Highway Administration (SHA) to perform a traffic safety study on Massachusetts Avenue. That study that is currently underway.

"The loss of even one life as a result of a pedestrian or auto accident along River Road is unacceptable and we have to show the State Highway Administration how we feel," said Phyllis Edelman, president of the Springfield Civic Association. "The SHA appears more concerned with following old-school engineering guidelines than the safety of our community members."

Nicky Goraya, president of the Glen Mar Park Community Association, said: “For the hundreds of families living in the neighborhoods around River Road and Massachusetts Avenue, traffic issues and road safety are of the utmost importance. These arteries not only serve a huge volume of cars, but also are navigated by many bikers and pedestrians without proper safeguards, such as bike lanes, lights, sidewalks and crosswalks. It is essential that Montgomery County and the State of Maryland take the necessary action immediately to make these roads safe for all who use them.”

Darrel Droblich, chair of the County’s Pedestrian, Bicycle and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee on which Councilmember Berliner sits, said: "As road users, everyone needs to be worried about safety whether in a motor vehicle, on a bike or walking. It is essential that local communities, the County and State work together to see that there is good communication and seamless implementation of engineering upgrades and comprehensive education and enforcement programs to ensure everyone's safety.”

In addition as serving as the Council’s representative on the Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and writing SHA on Massachusetts Avenue specifically, Councilmember Berliner led the effort to add \$100,000 to the County's pedestrian safety education program and \$80,000 to

its pedestrian safety enforcement program in this year's budget. He also was the lead sponsor of legislation unanimously enacted by the Council to reduce design speeds in urban areas.

Montgomery County Police also have increased their efforts on traffic safety. Recently, the County Police conducted distracted driving stings on River Road, citing dozens of drivers for being on their phones. Distracted driving is responsible for 80 percent of crashes in Montgomery County.

“I want to commend the Police for their commitment to enforcing traffic laws effectively,” said Councilmember Berliner, “But safe roads come from being committed to the three E’s: education, enforcement and engineering. We need everyone to work together to make safer streets a reality, and we need the state to be a partner.”

#####

- [Berliner-DayofActionPedestrianSafety 10-27-15.doc](#)
- [Berliner-DayofActionGlenMarParkResolution 10-27-15.pdf](#)
- [Berliner-DayofActionMohicanHillsResolution 10-27-15.pdf](#)
- [Berliner-DayofActionLettertoSecretaryPeteRahn 10-27-15.pdf](#)

Contact:

Neil Greenberger, Legislative Information Officer

240-777-7939, neil.greenberger@montgomerycountymd.gov

Additional Contacts:

Delphine Harriston(240-777-7931), Sonya Healy(240-777-7926)

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council