

# To the Montgomery County Council:

I am writing to support Bill 11-23 - The Safe Streets Act of 2023.

The recommendations of this act would progress the urgent need to increase safety for vulnerable users of the Counties' road infrastructure and to progress the lagging progress of the Counties' Vision Zero goals.

Vehicles block crosswalks at intersections allowing for Right Turns on Red. Already vehicles are mostly yielding on red rather than making a full stop as required by law. Many of these infractions can be caught and enforced using automated traffic enforcement devices.

For too long, convenience and level of service for vehicles have normalized pedestrian injuries and death. We continue to excuse excess injuries and death to additional vehicular miles driven. As noted in the Counties p' Vision Zero Annual Report for 2020, a **20% increase** in injuries (from 202 to 241) is normalized/excused by additional miles driven. See below for the highlighted quote from the Vision Zero FY2022 Annual Report:

"Serious and fatal crashes increased from 202 in 2020 to 241 in 2021,1 but was 15% below the 2015-2019 average. **Much of the year-over-year increase, particularly for serious injury crashes, was due to a 9% increase in vehicle miles traveled** as people returned to the road after COVID- 19 related shutdowns. (from the Vision Zero FY2022 Annual Report).

We need to do better.

We remember Jake Cassells 17, Dr Ned Gaylin 81, Jennifer DiMauro 31, Eric Frank Grosse Jr. 71, Enzo Marcel Alvarenga 18, and recently Sarah Langenkamp 41.

Best regards,

Warren Chan

March 19, 2023