

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the Governors Highway Safety Association reports that in 2018, the number of pedestrian deaths in the U.S. reached a 30-year high; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alexandria Police Department, there were 187 vehicle/pedestrian crashes in Alexandria from 2016 to 2018, and these crashes seriously injured 21 pedestrians and killed 7 others; and

WHEREAS, many communities have legacy roadways designed to maximize the speed of cars; and

WHEREAS, pedestrian collisions at 20mph kill 1 in 10, but at 40mph kill 9 in 10, according to the Federal Highway Administration and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; and

WHEREAS, distracted driving due to smartphone use causes an increasing number of pedestrian collisions; and the shift away from passenger cars to SUVs and light trucks leads to more injuries in pedestrian crashes; and

WHEREAS, vehicle/pedestrian crashes in Alexandria are more likely to occur during the fall and winter months; and

WHEREAS, drivers who travel at lower speeds reduce the likelihood of a crash; and drivers who 'look into a left turn' are less likely to crash into pedestrians in crosswalks; and

WHEREAS, pedestrians who only cross with a walk signal and remain in the crosswalk are less likely to be struck by a vehicle; and those who wear reflective gear after dark are more likely to be seen by drivers; and

WHEREAS, pedestrians crossing where there is only a stop sign remain safer if they wait at the corner, wave to approaching drivers, wait until a driver stops and waves back, and then proceeds into the cross walk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria adopted its Vision Zero Policy Resolution in 2017 to eliminate all traffic-related deaths and serious injuries by 2028. Part of this plan in 2019 includes the upgrading of 20 crosswalks to ensure their higher visibility, the installation of ten no right-on-red restrictions near pedestrian crash locations or intersections with high pedestrian volumes, the upgrading of 25 curb ramps to improve accessibility, and the installation of speed control measures to meet traffic calming criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, in support of safer streets and the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on November 17, 2019, do hereby proclaim the week beginning Monday, October 28, 2019 as:

“PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 22nd day of October, 2019.

MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk