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LOS ANGELES VISION ZERO ALLIANCE STANDS WITH MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI TO END ALL TRAFFIC DEATHS IN LOS ANGELES BY 2025

The newly formed Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance applauds Mayor Eric Garcetti, LADOT General Manager Seleta Reynolds, and LAPD Chief Charlie Beck for embracing the international Vision Zero movement and committing to providing safe and equitable streets for all Angelenos to be able to move freely.

BOYLE HEIGHTS, Calif. –

Members of the Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance (LA0), a coalition of organizations dedicated to promoting safe and equitable streets, joined Mayor Eric Garcetti in Boyle Heights today in support of the City of Los Angeles's new Vision Zero initiative, which sets a goal of reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured in traffic collisions to zero by 2025. Over 200 people are killed every year on Los Angeles streets, almost half of whom while walking or biking. A disproportionate share of these collisions are concentrated in low-income communities of color where residents walk and bike every day in unsafe conditions. LA0 believes these deaths are preventable and can be eliminated through a comprehensive approach that includes better street design, targeted education, and strategic enforcement.

Streets are our greatest public assets, occupying over one-quarter of the city's developed land. They connect communities to the resources needed to thrive, including employment, housing food, education, and health care. All residents—young and old—have the right to safely access these necessities, without the burden of owning or operating a car, and deserve streets that safely accommodate walking, biking, and taking transit. No Angeleno should be forced to put themselves in harm's way or feel unsafe just to cross the street.

Longtime advocates for walking and biking were elated at Mayor Garcetti's announcement. "Our streets are a reflection of who we are as a city. Los Angeles Walks wants to make sure that Los Angeles is a city that has safe streets for all, in vibrant and active communities," said Deborah Murphy, Founder and Executive Director of Los Angeles Walks. "Vision Zero is a promise to put safety first, particularly for people walking. After all, everyone is a pedestrian."

"Multicultural Communities for Mobility (MCM) stands with Vision Zero and the goal of ending traffic-related deaths in Los Angeles. Everyone deserves to get to their destinations safely and unharmed," said Board Chair Betty Avila. "MCM also continues to advocate for and with people who are disproportionately experiencing



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injuries and deaths due to motor vehicles. We cannot ignore the needs of those who are most vulnerable including low-income communities of color, the youth and elderly, and people with disabilities.”

Pedestrian safety is particularly important for children, seniors and people with disabilities, all of whom are at significantly greater risk of getting hit and killed, as well as residents of low-income communities where collisions are most likely to occur. “All people deserve safe and dignified transportation, whether or not they have access to a car,” said Tamika Butler, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. “Biking, walking, and transit are increasingly popular among all Angelenos, but are absolutely vital in low-income communities of color whose transportation needs have been overlooked for too long. Even residents without the privilege of choice deserve to be safe.”

“AARP California supports the efforts of communities and cities to become Great Places for All Ages,” said Associate State Director of Advocacy Stephanie Ramirez. “We believe that communities should provide safe, walkable streets; and transportation options. Our work is driven by research that shows the majority of people age 45 and older want to stay in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Vision Zero provides an opportunity to coordinate and prioritize the good projects already planned and underway in Los Angeles as we work to create well-designed, livable communities which promote better health and sustain economic growth, and they make for happier, healthier residents—of every age, in all life stages.”

“Now that we have successfully pushed for the City to build and/or repair 10,000 miles of LA sidewalks, it becomes essential to keep streets really safe, especially for people with disabilities rolling and walking the streets. We at Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF) are in full support of the Vision Zero Alliance’s goal of zero casualties for all road users,” said CALIF Executive Director Lillibeth Navarro. “We are here also to provide advocacy services and independent living skills to those who have already been hurt on the streets in their struggle toward full recovery and independence.”

“Access to safe and negotiable streets are an absolute necessity to working class and low-income communities of color like South Los Angeles,” said Malcolm Harris, Organizing and Program Director for T.R.U.S.T. South L.A. “Members of our community experience high rates of fatalities and accidents, most while traveling to work and/or school on streets that serve a mix of industrial, commercial and residential uses. Through an economic and social justice lens, we welcome Vision Zero as an exciting place to begin creating more equitable solutions for our community’s diverse mobility needs.”

A diverse group of community-based organizations from across Los Angeles echoed support for Vision Zero. “The Youth Policy Institute (YPI) has had the opportunity to work with local residents and schools through our activities in various neighborhood revitalization initiatives across the Los Angeles Promise Zone,” said Iris Zuñiga, YPI’s Chief Operations Officer. The Promise Zone spans the high collision neighborhoods of East Hollywood and Pico-Union. “We’ve received first-hand commentary related to concerns about pedestrian and bicyclist safety; especially among the most vulnerable users: youth and seniors. Given that several of the most dangerous intersections in Los Angeles are within the Promise Zone boundaries, YPI is committed to working collaboratively with City leadership as well as our business and community-based partners to implement solutions that lead to significantly reduced deaths and accidents within our City.”

“Community Health Councils applauds the Vision Zero commitment to making traffic-related fatalities on the streets of Los Angeles a thing of the past,” said D. Malcolm Carson, General Counsel for CHC, which is based in the Crenshaw neighborhood. “As advocates for the health and well-being of residents in South Los Angeles and other similarly disadvantaged communities, we know that our communities are the most at risk for traffic



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fatalities and stand the most to gain from efforts to eliminate them. We stand with the Mayor, the City Council, and stakeholders across the City as we collectively embark on this campaign to make Vision Zero a reality in Los Angeles.”

LA0 invites people to join the alliance by signing up on its website at www.visionzeroalliance.org and pledging their support.

About Vision Zero

Vision Zero is a worldwide movement, started in Sweden, to eliminate all traffic deaths. While traditional traffic safety campaigns have focused on changing human behavior to reduce the risk of collisions, Vision Zero takes a fundamentally different approach by instead putting the responsibility on government to manage the streets using evidence-based strategies to prevent fatalities and serious injuries. Vision Zero is data-driven, outcome-focused and collaborative across agencies and departments.

About the Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance

The Los Angeles Vision Zero Alliance (LA0) is a strong and diverse constituency working in partnership with the City of Los Angeles to end all traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2025. LA0 leverages each participating organization’s unique strengths to develop a united constituency for safe and equitable streets. LA0 coordinates citywide communications strategy, conducts policy advocacy and engages in grassroots organizing to galvanize support for neighborhood implementation of Vision Zero projects.

LA0 is led by:

- AARP California
- Advancement Project
- Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance (APIOPA)
- Communities Actively Living Independent & Free (CALIF)
- Community Health Councils (CHC)
- Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC)
- Los Angeles Walks
- Multicultural Communities for Mobility (MCM)
- PALS for Health
- T.R.U.S.T. South L.A.
- Youth Policy Institute (YPI)

For more information or to pledge your support, go to www.visionzeroalliance.org or follow us at [@LAvisionzero](https://www.facebook.com/LAvisionzero).

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