



## Crusader for safe streets shares grief

Jessica Heslam | Thursday, April 21, 2016



Credit: Courtesy

JESSICA CAMPBELL and JOHN 'JACK' LANZILLOTTI

The numbers are staggering: Roughly 800 ped-estrians are struck and injured by cars in Boston every year. Another 500 to 600 are hit while riding bikes.

But the most wrenching testimony at yesterday's Boston City Council hearing on a proposal to lower the Hub's speed limit to 20 mph came when Jackie DeWolfe's voice began to quiver. DeWolfe, executive director of LivableStreets Alliance, had just watched a spectacular sunset with friends on the Esplanade on the first day of summer in 2014 when she saw a swarm of cops and ambulances on Beacon Street.

She avoided the area as she headed home.

The next day, DeWolfe learned one of her friends from Boston University, John "Jack" Lanzillotti Jr., 28, and his girlfriend, Jessica Campbell, 27, had been killed by an SUV driver, who blew through a red light. Lanzillotti and Campbell had been walking and holding hands. Coincidentally, the young couple had also been watching the sun set along the Charles River.

“I came home to find out there was another crash on our streets,” said DeWolfe, who has been working for the nonprofit transportation organization for eight years. “I was devastated because of the work that we do. I was further devastated that it turned out to be a college friend of mine.”

DeWolfe learned of Lanzillotti’s tragic death from a newspaper and she told City Council members she never wants to read anything like that again.

DeWolfe called reducing the speed limit a good first step, but said city streets need to be designed for the 20 mph speed limit.

“It’s real,” DeWolfe told me after the hearing. “We talk about people. We talk about elders. We talk about vulnerable users. But the point is, these are real people who are getting killed and hurt on our streets.”

Mohamed Alfageeh, an Allston father of four, was sentenced to 18 months in jail for the couple’s death after pleading guilty to two counts of motor vehicle homicide by negligent operation.

“We were part of a group of friends that had a ton of fun and adventures. I knew that he loved being in Boston and he loved the Red Sox,” DeWolfe said of Lanzillotti, a manager of Red Sox Productions/Game Operations.

“It was shocking,” she said of his death, and how he was killed.