

COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 18, 2016

Mayor Brian Treece
Members of the City Council
Columbia, MO

Re: Vision Zero

Dear Mayor Treece,

Recently the Board of Health had the opportunity to review and discuss the resolution requesting that the City Council adopt a Vision Zero Policy. As you know, this resolution was the result of the Mayor's Task Force on Pedestrian Safety (MTFPS).

At our November 10th meeting, the Board of Health voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council adopt and implement Vision Zero.

With an average of 8 traffic related deaths and 59 serious injuries per year in Columbia, this is a public health issue that needs to be addressed. During our discussions, it was noted that for a town our size, we have a rather high fatality rate. For example, Ann Arbor, Michigan, a town very similar to Columbia has recently adopted Vision Zero but has an average of 3.75 traffic related deaths per year, significantly less than Columbia. Over a 10 year period, this would be 40 more traffic related deaths in Columbia than Ann Arbor. It's clear that we can and should do better. Preventing these unnecessary deaths would be money and time well spent.

Board members were impressed by the work done by the MTFPS including their identification of solutions, many low cost, to reduce, and hopefully eliminate, traffic related serious injuries and deaths. It was observed that significant synergies can be obtained by the City serving as an umbrella organization, coordinating current efforts that are being undertaken by multiple government, not-for-profit, educational and corporate entities.

We thank you and the City Council for your consideration of this important issue and encourage you to adopt the Vision Zero Policy.

Sincerely,



Michael Szewczyk, MD
Chairperson, Board of Health