



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1E
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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#1E-2023-0402: RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CONSEQUENCES FOR DANGEROUS DRIVERS

WHEREAS, Mohamed Kamara, Olvin Torres Velasquez, and Jonathan Cabrera Mendez were killed in a vehicle collision on Rock Creek Parkway on March 15, 2023;¹ and

WHEREAS, The vehicle causing the fatal crash had accumulated 44 outstanding citations totaling \$12,300 in less than a year;² and

WHEREAS, In 2015, the District of Columbia announced a Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2024 but has recorded more traffic deaths in each subsequent year than when the program was launched;³ and

WHEREAS, The D.C. Auditor published a report with recommendations on how to improve funding, staffing, and oversight of Vision Zero but did not address the District Department of Transportation's enforcement activities;⁴ and

WHEREAS, Mayor Bowser's FY24 budget proposal includes a significant increase in traffic cameras to issue fines for drivers speeding, running red lights, and committing stop sign violations;⁵ and

WHEREAS, The DC Council amended the District's "Clean Hands" law in July 2022 to allow residents who owe fines to the local government, including for traffic violations, to acquire a driver's license or renew an existing one;⁶ and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Christina Henderson introduced legislation in September 2022 to expand penalties for traffic violations caught by traffic cameras to points on a driver's license and twice-yearly reports to insurance companies;⁷ and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of traffic cameras is constrained by the expanded availability of fake temporary license plates online and D.C. government agencies' lack of willingness to take enforcement action against the growing number of these fake plates in use across our city;⁸ and

¹ ["Lyft Driver, 2 Passengers Died in Rock Creek Parkway Crash"](#) NBC4 Washington, 3/16/2023.

² ["3 Killed, 2 Hurt in Rock Creek Parkway Crash After Driver Flees Traffic Stop"](#) NBC4 Washington, 3/15/2023.

³ ["D.C. Auditor Report: Vision Zero Program Didn't Have Enough Funding, Staffing To Succeed"](#) DCist, 3/16/2023.

⁴ ["D.C. Auditor Report: Vision Zero Program Didn't Have Enough Funding, Staffing To Succeed"](#) DCist, 3/16/2023.

⁵ ["Traffic Cameras To Dramatically Increase, Spending Scaled Back In Bowser's Proposed Budget"](#) DCist, 3/22/2023.

⁶ ["D.C. To Allow Residents With Unpaid Debts To Get Driver's Licenses"](#) DCist, 7/11/2022.

⁷ ["Under New Bill, D.C.'s Traffic Cameras Would Dole Out Points As Well As Fines"](#) DCist, 9/19/2022.

⁸ ["Fake Tags are a Real Problem"](#) Greater Greater Washington, 3/16/2023.

WHEREAS, The Office of the City Administrator convened a Fake Temporary Tag Task Force in 2022 that included representatives from MPD, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Department of Public Works, and Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure but failed to make recommendations;⁹ and

WHEREAS, Traffic enforcement is further constrained by the lack of a regional reciprocity agreement forcing drivers from Maryland and Virginia to pay fines to the District;¹⁰ therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That ANC 1E urges the DC Council to take up legislation to improve traffic enforcement in the District including, but not limited to, tying non-financial penalties to traffic violations such as points on a driver's license, reports on traffic violations to insurance companies, and requiring remedial lessons for drivers accruing a substantial number of violations prior to the renewal of a driver's license and vehicle registration; further

BE IT RESOLVED, That ANC 1E urges the Office of the City Administrator to re-convene the Fake Temporary Tag Task Force and make public any recommendations that reduce the number of fake tags in the District; further

BE IT RESOLVED, That ANC 1E urges the Mayor to begin negotiations with Maryland and Virginia on a regional reciprocity agreement to hold unsafe drivers accountable regardless of where they commit traffic violations.

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Certification:

After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 6 present at its April 26, 2023 meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1E voted, with 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.



Brian Footer
Chairperson, ANC 1E



Josh Jacobson
Secretary, ANC 1E

To: Mayor Muriel Bowser

CC: Deputy Mayor Lucinda Babers, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure; Administrator Kevin Donahue, Office of the City Administrator; Chair Phil Mendelson, Council of the District of Columbia; Councilmember Charles Allen, Chair of the Committee on Transportation & the Environment, Council of the District of Columbia; Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Council of the District of Columbia

⁹ [“Pre-Hearing Questions for Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure”](#) 10/5/2022.

¹⁰ [“Maryland, Virginia drivers speeding through D.C. are ignoring the city’s tickets”](#) Washington Post. 12/27/2021.