



March 5, 2015

Honorable Mayor Lee  
City Hall Room 200  
# 1 Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Lee,

A little more than a year ago, we stood and cheered when you formally committed the City of San Francisco to Vision Zero: ending all traffic fatalities by 2024. This ambitious goal requires complete engagement from all City agencies, your administration, and the advocacy groups that make up the Vision Zero Coalition. San Francisco became the second United States city to launch Vision Zero, and we were proud and excited to celebrate with you and the rest of the City family.

Vision Zero challenges the transportation culture in San Francisco. At the foundation of Vision Zero is the premise that saving human lives should be the number one priority in our transportation system. Your Vision Zero Two-Year Action Strategy highlights a commitment that safety should be paramount in all decision-making processes.

On behalf of the Vision Zero Coalition, we are writing to express our dismay at your recent comments in the media that appeared counter to the Vision Zero goal and approach. Particularly, we were very disappointed to read your statement in the February 26, 2015, Streetsblog article, "We shouldn't prioritize bicycle safety over pedestrian safety over cars and parking."

Recognizing that it is often necessary to achieve a delicate balance between all modes to maintain the economic viability of our neighborhoods, Vision Zero should always prioritize people's safety – regardless of the mode of transportation they use – above personal convenience.

When the Vision Zero Coalition met with you in January, we asked you to be a public, vocal champion for Vision Zero. At that time, you said that was the role you wanted to play. Your comments last week undermine your own stated commitment to Vision Zero and suggest to City staff that the City's leadership is willing to slide when it comes to safety and our city's Vision Zero goals, wavering in the face of first resistance.

We hope that this worrisome quote was taken out of context and that you do believe that safety should be paramount. Unfortunately, you have given the impression that convenience trumps concern for the lives and well-being of vulnerable road users. **We ask you to publicly clarify your statement and impress upon the media, City staff, and San Francisco residents your personal commitment to a Vision Zero that makes the safety of all road users the City's number one priority.**

Sincerely,

#### **Members of the Vision Zero Coalition**

California WALKS, CC Puede, Folks for Polk, Livable City, NaFFAA San Francisco, North of Panhandle Neighborhood Association (NOPNA), San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, San Francisco Housing Action Coalition, San Francisco Transit Riders Union, Senior and Disability Action, Sunday Streets, Walk San Francisco, Alice Rogers, Member of the Vision Zero Coalition, John Alex Lowell, Pedestrian Collision Survivor, Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), FDR Democratic Club\*, Katy Liddell, President, South Beach / Rincon / Mission Bay Neighborhood Association,\* Nik Kaestner, Director of Sustainability, SF Unified School District,\* Phil Chin, Chinatown TRIP,\* Thomas Rogers, District 10 Representative, Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC)\*

\*Organization listed for identification purposes only