



Councilmember Charles Allen

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize the day of October 31, 2024 as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, pedestrian infrastructure is an essential component of a multimodal transportation network because even if someone mostly commutes by personal vehicle, by riding a bicycle or other micromobility device, or by using public transit, they can reasonably expect to walk or roll during some portion of that trip;

WHEREAS, although the District maintains over 1,400 miles of sidewalks, the investment in sidewalk expansion and repair does not match the level of investment in, and priority given to, street repairs;

WHEREAS, in addition to serving as a popular form of transportation, walking and rolling have been recognized by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention as a physical activity with health benefits, including decreased risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer;

WHEREAS, unlike personal automobile use, walking and rolling are forms of transportation that do not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and the associated negative impacts on air quality and human health;

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 7,522 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in the United States during 2022 – amounting to one pedestrian killed every 70 minutes;

WHEREAS, in 2024, to date, there have already been 17 pedestrian fatalities, 62 major injuries to pedestrians, and 495 minor injuries to pedestrians;

WHEREAS, according to an analysis of MPD crash data from 2015 through 2019, 79% of crashes involving people walking or rolling in the District resulted in an injury, and 1% resulted in a fatality;

WHEREAS, according to that same analysis, 69% of crashes involving a pedestrian occurred within 100 feet of an intersection;

47 WHEREAS, accordingly, the District government must continue to prioritize the design  
48 and construction of traffic infrastructure that better protects pedestrians at intersections, including  
49 daylighting efforts, the installation of High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (“HAWK”) signals, and  
50 the use of longer pedestrian lead intervals;

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52 WHEREAS, reducing risks for all pedestrians is essential to a safe, thriving community,  
53 and additional precautionary measures are needed for children in residential streets, parks and  
54 playgrounds, school zones, and more;

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56 WHEREAS, at the end of October, families across the United States participate in  
57 Halloween by wearing costumes, walking and rolling through their neighborhoods, collecting  
58 candy and other treats, and enjoying a variety of festivities;

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60 WHEREAS, studies found that there is a 43% higher risk of pedestrian fatality on  
61 Halloween, with pedestrians ages 4 to 8 years having a ten-fold increased fatality risk on  
62 Halloween; and

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64 WHEREAS, holiday likes Halloween underscore the importance of robust pedestrian that  
65 protects all District residents, but especially vulnerable roadways users like children, the elderly,  
66 and people with disabilities;

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68 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this  
69 resolution may be cited as the “Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day Recognition Resolution of  
70 2024”.

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72 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia declares October 31, 2024 as Pedestrian  
73 Safety Awareness Day in the District of Columbia.

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75 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.