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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Supervisor Mandelman Announces Hearing on San Francisco Police Department's Plan to Restore Traffic Enforcement

As San Francisco Fails to Achieve Vision Zero Goal of Eliminating Traffic Deaths by 2024, Traffic Citations Issued by SFPD Declined 97% between 2014 and 2022

SAN FRANCISCO — Today Supervisor Rafael Mandelman announced a hearing on the San Francisco Police Department's plan to restore traffic enforcement from historically low levels and get the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic fatalities back on track.

"If it seems like there isn't any traffic enforcement in San Francisco, that's because there largely isn't," said **District 8 Supervisor Rafael Mandelman**. "And with 39 lives lost to traffic crashes last year alone, we simply cannot continue to shortchange street safety."

"This month's hearing is a time for law enforcement and policymakers to get serious and reach agreement on a concrete strategy to restore traffic enforcement," **Mandelman** continued.

On May 23, 2023, Supervisor Mandelman sent a Letter of Inquiry asking SFPD to describe the barriers and challenges in restoring traffic enforcement to 2014 levels, including but not limited to overall staffing challenges and policy and legal changes that have contributed to the decline in enforcement. The inquiry also asked SFPD to present a plan and timeline to restore overall traffic enforcement to 2014 levels, with an emphasis on citing Focus on the Five violations, which represent the five most common causes of traffic collisions and injuries.

Supervisor Mandelman's hearing is scheduled for 10:00 am, September 28, at the Board's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

A Failure to Achieve Vision Zero

The City and County of San Francisco adopted Vision Zero as a policy in 2014, which set a bold vision to eliminate traffic deaths by 2024. Yet with just months left to achieve Vision Zero, the City has not just failed to reach the goal; the City has failed to achieve any discernible trend toward improved street safety. Last year was the deadliest year on San Francisco streets in more than a decade, with 37 traffic-related deaths. There are also still hundreds of people seriously injured while traveling on city streets every year.

Decline in Traffic Enforcement

On October 13, 2022, Supervisor Mandelman held a hearing at the Board of Supervisors Public Safety and Neighborhood Service Committee focusing on the decline in traffic enforcement over the last decade. At that hearing, we learned SFPD issued an average of 10 citations per day in 2022, compared to 350 per day in 2014 and 117 per day as recently as 2019. *That is a 96.87% decline in traffic citations issued between 2014 and 2022.*

In the months since the October 13 hearing, traffic citations have languished at their historically low levels. In the last seven months that data is available (Oct 2022 – April 2023), SPFD issued on average 11.5 traffic citations per day. While SFPD has recently met its Vision Zero target of issuing half of the traffic citations for the top five causes of collisions (56.23% over the same period), it appears that this is largely a result of fewer citations overall – not an increased commitment to Focus on the Five enforcement.

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