

CITY OF OAKLAND



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#LoveLife
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Date: June 3, 2021
To: Members of City Council and Members of the Public
From: Vice Mayor Kaplan
Re: **Resolution in Support of AB 43**

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

In the City of Oakland, there have been numerous accidents due to speeding, causing fatalities, serious injuries and property damage. According to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), speeding accounts for nearly a third of all traffic fatalities. The faster a vehicle goes, the chances of survival in a car crash decreases tremendously, especially for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, seniors and children. By reducing speed limits, we can save lives and prevent injuries on the road.

NTSB, the National Association of City Transportation Safety Officials and California Transportation Agency have all concluded we need to reform the way speed limits are set. Under current rules, California cities have very limited say in the speed limit on their streets and have to base it on how fast people currently drive, regardless of whether most of them are speeding or not. It's known as the "85th percentile rule" because planners must set the speed limit at whatever speed 85% of drivers are going.

AB 43 was introduced by Assembly Members Friedman, Ting, Chiu, and Quirk on December 7, 2020. The bill implements policy recommendations from the California Transportation Agency as outlined in the Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force by providing for more flexibility on setting speed limits based on safety. This includes requiring traffic surveyors to take into account the presence of vulnerable groups, including children, seniors, the unhoused and persons with disabilities when setting speed limits, and permitting cities to lower speed limits beyond the 85th percentile on streets with high injuries and fatalities. It also ensures cities will not have to raise a speed limit on any road if there have been no design changes.

I ask you to join me in endorsing AB 43 and urging the California State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom to support its enactment into law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Rebecca Kaplan".

Rebecca Kaplan
Oakland City Council President

City Council
June 15, 2021
File # 21-0463