



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE

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TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS

Veronica Flores, MA

Nomsa Khalfani, PHD, MFT

April 1, 2020

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Supervisors:

The *LA County Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force* (hereafter, the Task Force) was established by a motion of the Board in September 2015 and is a 25-member commission comprised of resident leaders from each Supervisorial District, many of whom also lead locally rooted organizations working tirelessly to advance health, safety and well-being. We share a commitment to justice, inclusion, fairness and integrity. We aim to serve as a focal point for exploring the racial, social, political, and environmental causes of health inequities and in our role advising the Board of Supervisors on matters critical to public health, health equity and prevention, we work to advance effective and community-driven solutions that will create a healthier, safer and more racially just LA County.

Given the significant toll that roadway injuries have on children and families throughout Los Angeles County, including on unincorporated County roadways, the Task Force wants to express our support for *Vision Zero Los Angeles County: A Plan for Safer Roadways 2020-2025* and the actions identified in it, including a fully resourced pilot program in at least three Collision Concentration Corridors. We are particularly interested in and compelled by the need to focus resources and attention on the Collision Concentration Corridors, which exist in 4 out of 5 Supervisorial Districts, but are disproportionately present in Supervisorial District 2, which has 75% of the Collision Concentration Corridors and a disproportionate percentage of our County's African American and Latino residents who are dependent on non-motorized modes of transportation.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to require the Department of Public Works to program its dollars to make roadway improvements that are proven to save lives along Collision Concentration Corridors, with a special focus on closing gaps in injury-related death rates between people of color and whites. Roadway injuries are the third leading cause of death in the county and are disproportionately claiming the lives of low income people and people of color. These disparities need to be contextualized as a byproduct of racialized land use decisions that have left communities of color historically disinvested from safe roadway infrastructure.

Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:

Sonya Young Aadam · Manal Aboelata · Mayra Alvarez · Veronica Flores · Michelle Fluke
Cathy Friedman · Nancy Halpern Ibrahim · Anisha Hingorani · Anne-Marie Jones · Nomsa Khalfani · Jim Mangia
Ramella Markarian · Damon Nagami · Lauren Nakano · Elisa Nicholas · Theresa "Missy" Nitescu · Janae Oliver
Maryjane Puffer · Cori Racela · Margaret Smith · Amanda Staples · Benjamin Torres · Nicole Wong

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At the same time, based on the lessons learned from the City of LA's experience rolling out Vision Zero, we feel compelled to express our support for resourcing the Department of Public Health to enable the Department to lead the County's implementation of action laid out in the Vision Zero Action Plan. The Task Force recognizes the Public Health department as having unique, added-value contributions to make to the ongoing analysis and implementation of Vision Zero on Unincorporated roadways. Vision Zero has been implemented in other cities, counties and countries yielding data that suggests that Public Health's involvement will be key to:

- 1) maintaining a focus on health equity,
- 2) committing to partnerships with local community-based organizations to lead culturally-responsive outreach and engagement activities,
- 3) ensuring data-driven approaches and allocations that are focused on reducing racial disparities in roadway deaths,
- 4) maintaining regular communications with the public as Vision Zero strategies are being identified and rolled out and
- 5) developing an evaluation plan that is rigorous and appropriate at the population-level scale—not just illuminating where roadway investments have been made by public works.

Effective injury prevention requires sustained and multi-faceted investments in people, in physical infrastructure (places) and programs. At this time, we encourage establishment of a time-limited, geographically focused “proof of concept” that could provide the basis for future scaling, adaptation and broader implementation. To do this, we recommend that the Board of Supervisors:

- support ongoing data analysis capacity for the Department of Public Health;
- provide *at least* one-time resources for community based organizations working “on the ground” in each of the Supervisorial Districts with Collision Concentration Corridors to enable them to conduct effective community engagement to identify community-preferred injury prevention strategies;
- provide resources to enable coordination across efforts in the 4 areas of geographic focus so that a “learning community” or “community of practice” is formed to accelerate progress and momentum.
- Establish a learning and evaluation component guided by racial equity which is critical to ensuring that challenges, facilitators, and lessons-learned are carried forward so that we can ultimately achieve the vision of zero roadway fatalities in LA County.

Eliminating roadway fatalities in LA County is a significant and urgent undertaking that requires substantial and ongoing investments in political leadership and roadway infrastructure improvements. We thank you for your consideration and continued support for improving health, safety and wellbeing across LA County. The Task Force remains poised to advance health equity and racial justice and would be happy to respond to any requests or questions the Board may have of us.

Respectfully,



Veronica Flores, MA
Task Force Co-Chair



Nomsa Khalfani, PhD, MFT
Task Force Co-Chair

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Members:

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Nomsa Khalfani, Essential Access Health

Jim Mangia, St. John's Well Child and Family Centers

Ramella Markarian, Adventist Health Glendale

Damon Nagami, Natural Resources Defense Council

Lauren Nakano, Beach Cities Health District

Elisa Nicholas, The Children's Clinic

Theresa Nitescu, Northeast Valley Health Corporation

Janae Oliver, Kaiser Permanente

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Cori Racela, Western Center on Law & Poverty

Margaret Smith, Policy Council, Los Angeles County Office of Women's Health

Amanda Staples, American Heart Association

Benjamin Torres, Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech)

Nicole Wong, Redeemer Community Partnership

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors