October 17, 2016

Chief Toney D. Chaplin
Interim Chief of Police

Dear Chief Chaplin:

At the meeting of the Police Commission on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION 16-60

APPROVAL TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING VISION ZERO AND AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Police Department and the Police Commission are deeply committed to Vision Zero and concerned about speed-related roadway deaths and injuries. According to data collected by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, 31 people were killed and 184 were severely injured in traffic collisions in San Francisco in 2014; and

WHEREAS, pedestrians and cyclists are at a heightened risk of injury in speed-related crashes: studies show that if a pedestrian is hit by a car traveling 40 mph there is an 80% chance the pedestrian will be killed, but if a driver strikes a pedestrian traveling 20 mph there is a 10% chance the pedestrian will be killed; and

WHEREAS, data collected from San Francisco Police Department collision reports indicates that speeding is the number one cause of severe injury and fatal collisions in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, according to WalkFirst, in San Francisco, the annual medical costs for pedestrians injured in a traffic collision is $15 million and the total annual economic costs of traffic injuries and fatalities is $564 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco adopted Vision Zero as a policy in 2014, committing to build better and safer streets, educate the public on traffic safety, enforce the most dangerous traffic violations, and adopt policy changes in order to eliminate traffic deaths by 2024; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that fixed speed cameras reduce injury crashes by 20% to 25%, and mobile speed cameras reduce injury collisions by 21% to 51%, and that “automated enforcement systems can result in measurable safety improvement at high crash locations;” and
WHEREAS, 143 communities in the United States have implemented automated speed enforcement camera programs; however, California law prohibits the use of camera technology to enforce existing speed limits; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco Department of Public Health, San Francisco Health Commission, San Francisco County Transportation Authority and 19 other community organizations have demonstrated their support for automated speed enforcement through resolutions, letters of support or other official actions; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Police Commission of the City of San Francisco agrees that traffic related injuries and fatalities are a significant public health concern that are preventable and supports the Vision Zero goal of eliminating traffic deaths in San Francisco by 2024; and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Police Commission of the City of San Francisco supports the use of automated speed enforcement technology to manage speeds and save lives and calls on the City and County of San Francisco to lobby and coordinate efforts to pass legislation authorizing the use of ASE in San Francisco and for the Governor to sign it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Police Commission of the City of San Francisco directs the San Francisco Police Department to work with the Mayor’s Office and Board of Supervisors to actively support automated speed enforcement through engagement with statewide professional law enforcement associations and organizations and other appropriate avenues.

AYES: Commissioners Loftus, Turman, Marshall, DeJesus, Mazzucco, Melara, Hwang

Very truly yours,

Sergeant Rachael Kilshaw
Secretary
San Francisco Police Commission

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