

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA; SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAFE STREETS PINELLAS ACTION PLAN; ADOPTING A “VISION ZERO” POLICY TO ELIMINATE TRANSPORTATION RELATED FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS AND SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, every year in Pinellas County, about 90 people lose their lives and 750 are seriously injured on our streets; and

WHEREAS, approximately three people are killed or seriously injured in traffic crashes every day in Pinellas County; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Streets Pinellas Action Plan identifies US 19 in Tarpon Springs as part of the High Injury Network; and

WHEREAS, 73% of the High Injury Network is either within or runs through a Community of Concern and these areas only make up 32% of the Pinellas County geographic area; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs has an identified Community of Concern directly adjacent to the High Injury Network and a school within ½ mile of the High Injury Network; and

WHEREAS, Communities of Concern, as defined in detail in Advantage Pinellas 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan, experience a disproportionate risk of severe injury and death from traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, the City prioritizes safe and reliable transportation for everyone regardless of mode of transport, age, ability, gender, race, income, or other social factors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs has experienced traffic related fatalities and injuries within and outside the High Injury Network; and

WHEREAS, any traffic fatality in the City of Tarpon Springs is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tarpon Springs (the “City”) strongly believes the number of people dying and suffering serious injuries on our streets is ethically unacceptable and constitutes a public health concern that necessitates public action; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero is a public-health based traffic safety strategy to eliminate death and serious injuries using a data-driven, multidisciplinary, systems approach that increases safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, crashes that result in death or serious injury are preventable, not inevitable, and are caused, in part, by transportation facilities that are not designed to presuppose and counteract human error, which is inevitable; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the efficient transport of people and goods is vital to the health, safety, and welfare of our community; and

WHEREAS, the data indicates that speed is the fundamental factor in crash severity; and

WHEREAS, the City prioritizes human life over the benefits of speed; and

WHEREAS, the City commits to work collaboratively with Forward Pinellas, Pinellas County, other municipalities, and partner agencies to identify and implement projects and programs that reduce the potential for traffic-related injuries and deaths.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the City supports the implementation of the Forward Pinellas Safe Street Action Plan attached.

SECTION 2. That the City will participate in the Safe Streets Pinellas Working Group to coordinate safety improvements and advance local priorities that will make streets safer for everyone.

SECTION 3. That the City adopts a “Vision Zero” goal to eliminate transportation-related deaths and serious injuries in the City by 2045.

SECTION 4. That the City will incorporate the Vision Zero goal and Safe Systems approach (as defined in the Forward Pinellas Safe Street Action Plan) in the City’s plans, policies, programs and practices.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.