

# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

March 27, 2024

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson  
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet  
District 3 – Todd Darling  
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean  
District 6 – Greg Murphy  
District 7 – Harrison Raine  
District 8 – Theo Gordon

## AGENDA

### Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Approval of the Agenda

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report\*

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

3. **Action:** Approve Minutes of February 28, 2024  
**Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the February 28, 2024 regular meeting.  
**Written Material:** Minutes of February 28, 2024  
**Presentation:**

**4. Action:** Support The Request By The Fire Department To Fund a Program Manager II Position (Wilson)

**Recommendation:** The DFSC supports the request by the Fire Department (Department) to fund a Program Manager II position that will be responsible for building a Street Trauma Prevention (STP) program in the Department. This program is necessary to meet the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating severe and fatal traffic crashes by 2028.

**Written Material:** Fire Department Street Trauma Prevention (STP) Program

**Presentation:** None

**5. Discussion:** Amendment of City Documents for a Definition of "Public Safety" (Dean)

**Recommendation:** That the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Safety Commission Recommends That The City Council Amend The Appropriate City Documents To Include a Definition of "Public Safety"

**Written Material:** Draft Report

**Presentation:**

**THESE ITEMS SHOULD APPEAR AS THE LAST TWO AGENDA ITEMS - Weldon**

**6. Work Group Reports**

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach
- Vision Zero

**Written Materials:  
Presentation:**

7. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- 

**Adjournment**

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, [kmay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:kmay@berkeleyca.gov) 510-981-5508.*

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.*

*Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.*

**COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:**

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

## DFSC Staff Report

March 27, 2024

### 1. Measure FF Monthly Report

- a. Budget Overview –
- b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November  
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February  
Quarter 3 (January, February, March) **report due in May**  
Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October
  - i. Program Review

- **WUI Interns** – The Interns provide Berkeley Fire Department with a trained, mobile and mission-specific workforce that is principally assigned to monitor vegetative hazardous fuel on or near structures, collect data, and identify reduction activities
  - **Updates:** The Wildland Urban-Interface (WUI) Division is recruiting for more Interns. Timeline noted below:
    - Applications – March 1-31, 2024
    - Interviews – April 2024
    - Onboarding – May 2024
    - Academy – June 10-27, 2024
- **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** –  
**Updates:** The WUI team learned a lot last year and there are substantial improvements in the program this year. A mailer was sent out to all residents in Fire Zones 2 and 3. What is required vs what is recommended has been clarified and the time residents have to correct violations has been extended

from 30 to 60 days. The wildly popular city-wide Chipper Day program was launched this week with over 150 reservations already made by Berkeley residents.

The Defensible Space Resident Assistance Program (RAP), which allows eligible residents to apply to have city contractors come to their property and bring it into compliance has been re-tooled and will be expanded this year. To qualify, residents must demonstrate they meet income, age and/or disability thresholds. The Department will identify eligible areas based on risk and only residents within these areas are eligible to apply.

This year residents who fail to comply with inspections will be issued citations through the City's new digital citation platform. This represents a big improvement in our ability to follow through and address non-compliant properties.

- **Safe Passage** - The Fire Department has contracted with a vendor to help the City of Berkeley meet requirements outlined in SB 99, AB 747, and AB 1409, provide City with professional services in the areas of traffic and evacuation modeling and planning, given various evacuation and/or emergency response scenarios as determined by the City.
  - **Update:** Staff is also working closely with KLD, who is the contracted for the Evacuation Time Study to help with the new State evacuation planning requirements for SB99, AB747, and AB1409.

ii. Implementation & Metrics

- **Outdoor Warning System** – No new updates.

2. Measure GG Monthly Report

- a. Budget Overview – No new update
- b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November  
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February  
Quarter 3 (January, February, March) **report due in May**  
Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October

- 3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. *(Measure FF has funded the study only)*
  - a. Update: **No new update**
  
- 4. Department Activities
  - a. **Administration Building Lease** –
  - b. **Transportation Project Tracking:** Last week members from our team met with Public Works Transportation Division in an effort to develop a clear, documented process by which transportation projects will move through the city and obtain the necessary input and approvals.
  
- 5. Grants
  - a. **SAFER Grant Planning:** We were not successful in this grant cycle but have retained the services of a grant writer and will be resubmitting in the next cycle.
    - i. **No new updates.**
  
- 6. Call Volume Report

| <b>Fire Department Report by California Incident Type</b>                                                                   |    |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--|
| <b>January 2024</b>                                                                                                         |    |  |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b> (structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney, | 32 |  |
| <b>Encampment Fires</b> (structures, warming/cooking, debris)                                                               | 28 |  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|
| <b>Explosion</b> - no fire (overpressure ruptures, explosions)                                                                                                                                           | 0   |  |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist, vehicle accident)                                                                                                                                               | 910 |  |
| <b>Hazardous Condition</b> - no fire (combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles) | 79  |  |
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)                                                                        | 104 |  |
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke)                                                                                                          | 132 |  |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)                                                                                                                        | 208 |  |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind storms)                                                                                                                                                               | 4   |  |

Public

|                                               |              |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen complaints) | 1            |  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                  | <b>1,470</b> |  |
| <b>Apparatus Count</b>                        |              |  |
|                                               | <b>3,292</b> |  |

**DFSC Action Tracker**

| Date of DFSC Action | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Status                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12/6/2023           | That the Berkeley City Council pass a resolution to support the Fire Department in using Measure FF funds to conduct one-time eucalyptus understory clean-ups on select, participating private properties within the City | Item went to Agenda Committee and was pulled by a Councilmember for language clarification and for Legal Review. Item resubmitted and will be heard by Council on 5/7/2024          |
| 10/25/2023          | Provide a recommendation to City Council on the development of a plan that includes a feasibility study and identification of funding sources for constructing an emergency secondary access road on Panoramic Hill       | The Fire Department and Public Works Department is collaborating on a Companion Report to submit to Council on moving forward with a feasibility study for the Panoramic Hill area. |

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Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

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### AGENDA

#### Preliminary Matters

##### Call to Order

*Meeting called to order at 7:02pm*

*Present: Wilson, Bradstreet, Darling, Kinosian, Dean, Murphy, Raine, Gordon, Katz (arrived 7:15)*

*Absent:*

*LOA:*

##### Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion:*

*Motion to approve: Murphy*

*Second: Gordon*

*Approved by acclamation*

##### Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*3 public speakers.*

1. Chairperson's Report – recognized Steve Greenberg's passing
2. Fire Department Staff Report\*

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action:** Minutes of January 24, 2024  
**Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the January 24, 2024 regular meeting.  
**Written Material:** January 24, 2024 Draft Minutes  
**Presentation:**

*Motion to approve minutes as amended: Murphy  
Second: Gordon  
Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Kinoshian, Dean, Murphy, Raine, Gordon, Katz,  
Nays: 0 Abstain: Darling*

- 4. Discussion and Action:** Chair Elections  
**Recommendation:** Chair – Weldon Bradstreet  
*Motion to nominate Weldon Bradstreet for Commission Chair: Murphy  
Second: Bradstreet  
Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Darling, Kinoshian, Dean, Murphy, Raine, Gordon,  
Katz, Nays: 0 Abstain: 0*

**Discussion and Action:** Vice Chair Elections  
**Recommendation:** Vice Chair – Greg Murphy  
*Motion to nominate Greg Murphy for Commission Vice Chair: Dean  
Second: Wilson  
Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Darling, Kinoshian, Dean, Murphy, Raine, Gordon,  
Katz, Nays: 0 Abstain: 0*

- 5. Discussion:** FY24/25 Budget Proposal (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** Solicit Input from The Commission  
**Written Material:** Budget Proposal  
**Presentation:** Chief Sprague

**6. Discussion/Action:** Street Trauma Prevention  
Implementing Vision Zero (Wilson)

**Recommendation:** Recommendation to Form a Working Group to Explore a Recommendation for Council to Implement a Street Trauma Prevention Program

**Amended Recommendation:** The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission will:

- 1) Establish a Vision Zero work group that will adopt the February 28, 2024 Vision Zero briefing document as an overarching framework; and,
- 2) In consultation with representation from the Transportation and Infrastructure Commission, the Vision Zero work group will draft a recommendation to Council requesting additional resources for the Department to establish a Street Trauma Prevention (STP) program, which will coordinate with other City departments and commissions, including the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, to integrate the Department's perspectives on both prevention and response into the City's traffic safety projects related to Vision Zero and other policies.

Motion to extend the meeting to 9:30: Bradstreet

Second: Murphy

Ayes: Gordon, Murphy, Bradstreet, Dean, Raine, Katz, Darling, Kinoshian, Wilson

**Written Material:** Street Trauma Prevention PDF, Slides

*Motion to approve: Bradstreet*

*Second: Dean*

*Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Darling, Kinoshian, Dean, Raine, Gordon, Katz*

*Nays: Murphy*

*Abstain: 0*

**7. Discussion:** Berkeley Traffic Planning (Darling) **Pulled**

**Recommendation:**

**Written Material:**

**Presentation:**

**THESE ITEMS SHOULD APPEAR AS THE LAST TWO AGENDA ITEMS - Weldon**

## 8. Work Group Reports

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
- Home Hardening
- Wildland Urban Interface
- Safe Passages
- Community Outreach

## 9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- **Fulfill by emailing Commission secretary**

## Adjournment

*Motion to approve: Bradstreet*

*Second: Dean*

*Vote: Ayes: Wilson, Bradstreet, Darling, Kinosian, Dean, Raine, Gordon, Katz, Murphy, Nays: 0 Abstain: 0*

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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

DRAFT

**FIRE DEPT—STREET TRAUMA PREVENTION (STP) PROGRAM**

ACTION CALENDAR

March 27, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Submitted by: Weldon Bradstreet, Chairperson, Disaster and Fire Safety Commission

Subject: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Recommendation

**RECOMMENDATION**

The DFSC supports the request by the Fire Department (Department) to fund a Program Manager II position that will be responsible for building a Street Trauma Prevention (STP) program in the Department. This program is necessary to meet the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating severe and fatal traffic crashes by 2028.

The STP program is a new initiative within the Department to support the transportation and infrastructure projects of Vision Zero in order to steadily reduce the 694 injuries that occur on Berkeley streets each year, on average, among people walking, riding bikes and riding in vehicles, including an average of five fatalities.

This position will allow the Department to: (1) engage consistently and constructively in the City's Vision Zero planning and implementation processes; (2) collaborate with other departments to advance specific transportation and infrastructure projects related to Vision Zero and other policies; and (3) build an evidence-based approach to balancing street trauma response and prevention.

The STP program will require sufficient staff and resources to support the Department's capacity to perform analysis, interdepartmental coordination, program design, and implementation. The Program Manager II position represents the first step in establishing and building this program.

**FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION**

Sufficient funding will be needed to support a Program Manager II position for an initial period of five years. The Department and budget office will need to determine the total amount of funding required to meet this objective.

**CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

An average of 694 persons are injured in street trauma each year in Berkeley, and five are killed

During the period 2017 to 2022, street trauma resulted in injuries to 490 people in vehicles, 103 people riding bikes, and 101 pedestrians on average each year (Figure 1), including an annual

average of five fatalities (Figure 2).<sup>1</sup> During this same period, there were no deaths and an average of two persons injured each year in fires in Berkeley, a testament to the effectiveness of the Department’s decades of effort in fire prevention and response.

Figure 1. Annual average collisions causing injuries to vehicle occupants, cyclists and pedestrians, 2017—2022, Berkeley, CA.

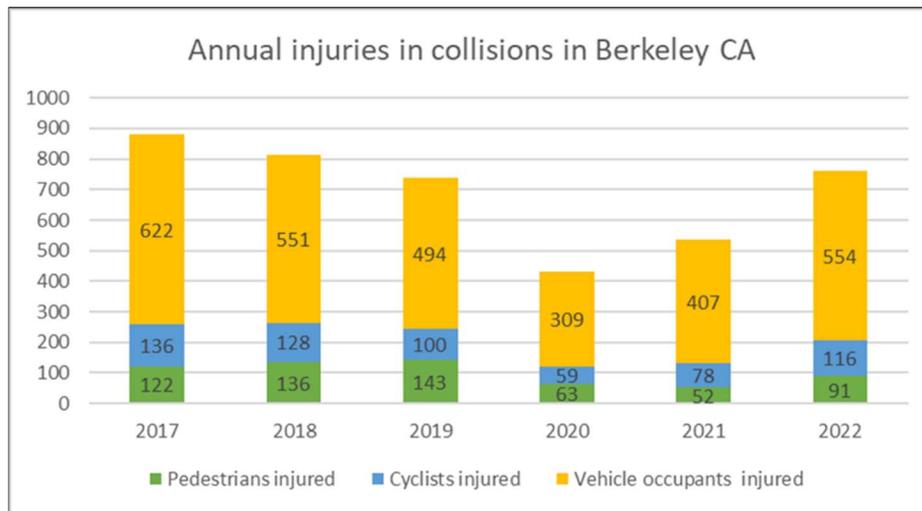
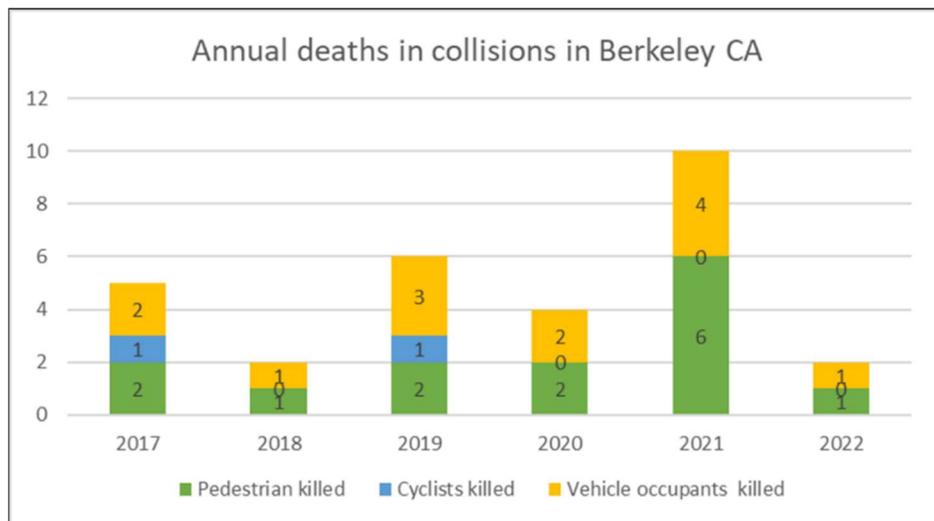


Figure 2. Annual average collisions causing fatal injuries to vehicle occupants, cyclists and pedestrians, 2017—2022, Berkeley, CA.



<sup>1</sup> Collision data from the Collisions Stats tab of the Berkeley Police Transparency Portal - Traffic Safety website: (<https://bpd-transparency-initiative-berkeleypd.hub.arcgis.com/pages/traffic-safety>). Death & severe injury collision data from the UC Berkeley SafeTREC Transportation Injury Management System (TIMS) Query & Map (<https://tims.berkeley.edu/tools/query/index.php?clear=true>). All data accessed 5/18/2023 – 5/20/2023 and prepared by Tom Lent.

Severe and fatal collisions disproportionately affect people walking and biking.

Berkeley residents report that they walk or bike for 40% of trips made in the city, but people walking and biking suffer 61% of severe and fatal collisions.<sup>2</sup> Drivers operating at unsafe speeds and drivers failing to yield at crosswalks are the two most common violations contributing to severe and fatal collisions in Berkeley, amounting to 33% of such incidents over the period 2011-2020.<sup>3</sup> While 71% of Berkeley residents report being interested in relying on bicycles for daily use, most are too concerned about safety to act on this choice.<sup>4</sup>

A subset of injuries that result from street trauma cause immense suffering and financial hardship for those affected, and they require extensive Department and medical resources. On the current trajectory, traffic-related street trauma, and the demand for the Department's EMS services that accompany it, is expected to increase alongside increases in housing density. The Department already reports that the growing number of EMS calls is taxing its resources and personnel.

Responding to critically injured persons also takes a toll on emergency responders.

People struck by vehicles while walking or riding bikes are often seriously or critically injured. Providing emergency medical care for these patients, as well as for those injured while riding in vehicles, takes a toll on the mental health of firefighters and paramedics. California Senate Bill 542 (Stern) created a rebuttable presumption that post-traumatic stress injuries among firefighters and peace officers are work-related and thus compensable under workers' compensation. The bill, signed by Governor Newsom in 2019, noted that "trauma-related injuries can become overwhelming and manifest in post-traumatic stress, which may result in substance use disorders and even, tragically, suicide."<sup>5</sup>

The bill reports that "the fire service is four times more likely to experience a suicide than a work-related death in the line of duty in any year." Reducing the frequency of exposure to critically injured persons is an effective response to this occupational hazard for responders.

## **BACKGROUND**

The fire service understands the power of prevention.

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<sup>2</sup> City of Berkeley, Vision Zero Annual Report (June 2022). ([https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2023%20Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2023%20Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf)). (p. 13).

<sup>3</sup> City of Berkeley, Vision Zero Annual Report (June 2022). *ibid* (p. 14).

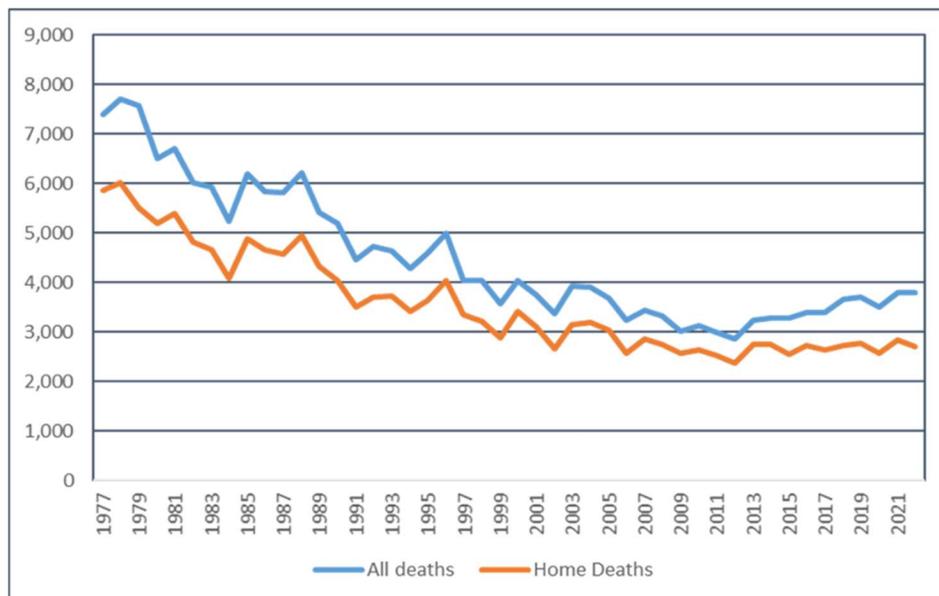
<sup>4</sup> Berkeley City Manager Dee Williams-Ridley (June 29, 2022). Consent Calendar on Vision Zero Annual Report, 2021-2022. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Impacts ([https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2023%20Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Report\\_0.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06-28%20Item%2023%20Vision%20Zero%20Annual%20Report_0.pdf)). (p. 3).

<sup>5</sup> Senate Bill No. 542. Chapter 390, Stern. Workers' Compensation. ([https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200SB542](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB542)). See subsection (1)(e).

Data since 2010 shows that the Department’s Fire Prevention Bureau has reduced fire-related injuries to an average of two per year.<sup>6</sup> This success has resulted in large part from decades of advancements in fire prevention, prompted in 1973 by the report of the National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, which found that “95 cents of every dollar spent on the fire services is used to extinguish fires; only about 5 cents is spent on efforts...to prevent fires from starting,” and concluded that “much more energy and funds need to be devoted to fire prevention, which could yield huge payoffs in lives and property saved.”<sup>7</sup>

The National Commission’s recommendations spurred a steady stream of advancements in fire protection codes that required the use of passive and active fire protection systems, including design specifications for buildings, fire resistant building materials, exit systems, fire sprinkler and smoke control systems, smoke and heat alarm systems, and fire suppression systems. Altogether, these changes reduced civilian fire deaths by 60% between 1979 and 2012, resulting in 5,000 fewer deaths per year by 2012 (Figure 3).<sup>8</sup>

Figure 3. All U.S. civilian fire deaths and home fire deaths, 1977-2022.



<sup>6</sup> FireCARES. Berkeley Fire Department (<https://firecares.nfors.org/departments/74866/berkeley-fire-department?page=1>).

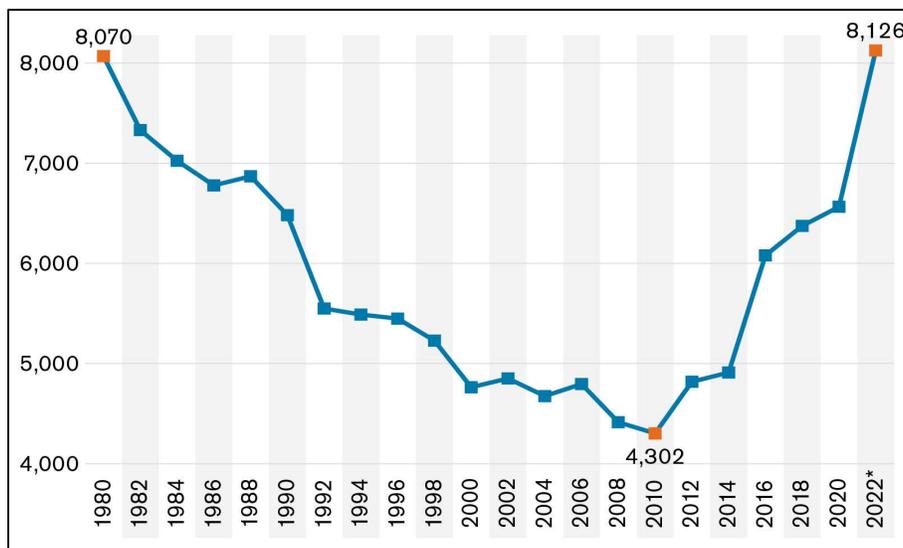
<sup>7</sup> National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (May 4, 1973). America Burning. (<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/blog/america-burning-50th-anniversary/>) p. 7

<sup>8</sup> Hall, S. (November 2023). Fire loss in the United States during 2022. Quincy, MA: National Fire Protection Association. <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/home-and-community/safety-topics/fire-related-fatalities-and-injuries/>

Street trauma is a serious public safety problem that is worsening nationally, particularly among pedestrians.

After a 40% decline over the 21 years between 1988 and 2009, national trends show a 77% increase in pedestrian fatalities from traffic collisions over the 11 year period from 2010 to 2021, with preliminary data showing a spike in 2022 that will bring the total increase during this period to 89% (Figure 4).<sup>9</sup> All other traffic fatalities increased 25% during the period 2010 to 2021.<sup>10</sup> This striking increase in pedestrian deaths is attributed to multiple causes, the most fundamental being a U.S. transportation system that is “designed to move cars quickly, not to move people safely.”<sup>11</sup>

Figure 4. U.S. pedestrian fatalities resulting from traffic collisions, 1980—2022.



\*Projected based on data for the first six months of 2022.

**RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Department has an important role to play in preventing street trauma, while also ensuring an effective response to it.

<sup>9</sup> Governor’s Highway Safety Association (June 2023). Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State—2022 Preliminary Data, January-December. ([Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities by State: 2022 Preliminary Data | GHSA](#)). (p. 11).

<sup>10</sup> Governor’s Highway Safety Association (June 2023). *Ibid.* (p. 5).

<sup>11</sup> Emily Badger and Alicia Parlapiano (Nov 27, 2022). The Exceptionally American Problem of Rising Roadway Deaths. The New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/27/upshot/road-deaths-pedestrians-cyclists.html>). See also: Amanda Holpuch (June 27, 2022). U.S. Pedestrian Deaths Are at Highest Level in 41 Years, Report Says. The New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/27/us/pedestrian-deaths-2022.html>). Simon Romero (Feb 14, 2022) Pedestrian Deaths Spike in U.S. as Reckless Driving Surges. The New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/14/us/pedestrian-deaths-pandemic.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>).

Research continues to show that street trauma is largely preventable through hardened, engineered traffic controls, which reduce vehicle speeds and separate vehicles from people walking and biking.<sup>12,13,14</sup> There is concern, however, that such protections could affect Department response times to critical emergency medical incidents, as well as response times and access by fire equipment to structural fires. Travel time from the scene of an emergency to the hospital by the Department's paramedic ambulances could also be affected. These concerns warrant careful evaluation because the survival of a subset of persons who call 911 can hinge on the speed of fire response and subsequent transport to the hospital.

Implementing a street trauma prevention (STP) program will require a mission change within the Department.

Building a street trauma prevention (STP) program is essential to meeting the City's stated goals of Vision Zero. It will require sufficient staff and resources to support the Department's ability to perform analysis, interdepartmental coordination, program design, and implementation.

The Berkeley Fire Department is a progressive department that is well-positioned to offer the citizens of Berkeley, and of California, a new vision of the fire service that calls attention to the importance of both rapid response and effective prevention in the area of street trauma. To be successful, this will require the Department to adopt street trauma prevention as a core element of its public safety mission, just as the fire service adopted a prevention function within its fire suppression mission over the last 50 years, with remarkable success.

A Program Manager II is needed to establish and build the STP program. The STP program will coordinate with other City departments and commissions to integrate the Department's perspectives on both response and prevention into the City's traffic safety projects related to Vision Zero and other policies.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

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<sup>12</sup> Marshall W, Ferencak N (2019). Why cities with high bicycling rates are safer for all road users. *J. of Transport and Health* 13:285-301. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2214140518301488?via%3Dihub>). Accessed January 28, 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Aaron Short (May 29, 2019) Separated bike lanes means safer streets, study says. *Streetsblog*. (<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/05/29/protect-yourself-separated-bike-lanes-means-safer-streets-study-says>). Accessed January 28, 2024.

<sup>14</sup> City of Cambridge, MA, Environmental and Transportation Planning Division (October 2023). *Bicycling in Cambridge. Data Report 2023*. ([https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/CDD/Transportation/Bike/bikereports/20231023bicyclingincambridgedatareport\\_final.pdf](https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/CDD/Transportation/Bike/bikereports/20231023bicyclingincambridgedatareport_final.pdf)). Accessed January 28, 2024.

Relying on existing staff to establish and build the STP program is not sustainable, given existing workloads.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

**Note: If the City Manager does not (a) concur, (b) takes any other position, or (c) refer to the budget process, a council action report must be prepared. Indicate under the CITY MANAGER heading, "See companion report."**

CONTACT PERSONS

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March 27, 2024

That the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission (DFSC) recommends that the City Council amend the appropriate City documents to include a definition of “Public Safety” as follows:

That Public Safety includes not only policies and procedures related to Federal, State and local crimes but also the accessibility of emergency vehicles provided by the Fire Department to residences and businesses and also the identification and maintenance of evacuation routes throughout Berkeley.

DTSC further recommends that the current zoning regulations and procedures remain in place until the Evacuation Study is completed. If proposals from City staff, individual Council Members, Commissions or Community Organizations are put forward that would increase the density of Berkeley, such proposals would not be acted upon until the Evacuation Study is completed.

This recommendation is NOT to be considered an approval of the current zoning regulations and procedures. It is only to be recognized as being in place until further data and consideration occurs. The concern of DFSC is based on ensuring effective response to providing fire safety to everyone in Berkeley. The Commission has already discussed the fact that our Fire Department does not have the necessary equipment to reach the upper floors of high-rise buildings, nor the necessary numbers of staff to climb the stairs to reach people on the upper floors and that is being explored for how to improve that situation so that the additional costs are fairly distributed. There is a high cost for the current situation not only to residents and those who commute daily to work in Berkeley, but also to Fire Department staff both physically and mentally. A Master Plan has been produced but to date there has not been an opportunity for the Fire Chief to meet with the City Council to inform them fully of the dangers that must be addressed and how to correct them. The DFSC should consider the possibility of a group of City Council Members (it could be members of an existing Council Committee) meet with our Commission to hear from the chief and address concerns based upon the new definition of Public Safety and come up with a plan on how to proceed.

The Commission fully acknowledges the need for housing. The City Council as a whole will be in recess until May, and in the meantime, there is room for discussion of information that will hopefully result in the most effective pathway to protecting both residents, workers and Fire Department staff. A proposal to address “Middle Housing” has been put forward by City Staff. I understand it has been approved by the Planning Commission so it should be coming to the City Council in the near future. It appears that it will increase density of this City, and, therefore, it should be reviewed carefully by this Commission. A copy of that proposal will be provided to each member of the Commission. I suggest that we address this quickly using the new definition of Public Safety and that the proposal should not be action upon until such time as the Evacuation Study is completed.