



# CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

8400 BALTIMORE AVENUE SUITE 375 COLLEGE PARK MD 20740 | COLLEGEPAKMD.GOV

January 14, 2021

## MAYOR

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Delegate Kumar Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### Re: House Bill 118 – Vehicle Laws - Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual - Penalties

Dear Chair Barve and Committee Members:

The College Park City Council voted unanimously during our meeting on January 12, 2021 to support HB 118. This bill will improve safety and help combat reckless driving by strengthening and increasing penalties around negligent driving offenses. A driver convicted of a violation will face a suspension of that driver's license for a minimum of seven days and up to six months. HB 118 is a recommendation from the Maryland Bicycle Safety Task Force, a legislatively mandated group which I had the honor of participating in together with pedestrian and bicycle safety advocates, law enforcement officials, transportation planners, and engineers.

The safety of vulnerable road users is an issue that affects everyone in Maryland. Many unnecessary injuries and fatalities occur because of intoxication, ignorance, or inattentiveness by roadway users, placing pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities at risk. According to the Maryland Department of Transportation, approximately one of every four traffic crash fatalities was a pedestrian. MDOT estimates that approximately 97% of crashes are based on human error.

We need to make roads safe for all users. On behalf of the City Council and our residents, I respectfully request your continued support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Wojahn  
Mayor

cc: Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, 21<sup>st</sup> District  
Delegate Ben Barnes, 21<sup>st</sup> District  
Delegate Mary Lehman, 21<sup>st</sup> District