

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL:

Álvaro Huevo, of legal age, resident in Montgomery Village, Montgomery County, Maryland, expresses the **FOLLOWING to you:**

I.- Traffic accidents

According to the Report ON THE SITUATION OF ROAD SAFETY IN 2023, issued by the WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, WHO, on December 13, 2023, injuries from traffic accidents are the leading cause of death in the world.

Thus, in 2023, 1.19 million people died, so every two minutes a person dies due to a traffic accident. Of them, two thirds of those who died were of working age -18 and 59 years old-

Likewise, according to a report provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration -NHTSA-, in the month of April 2023, in the United States alone, in 2021 there were a total of 42,939 deaths in the country as a result of traffic accidents. traffic, and an approximate of 2,497,657 injuries, making the city of Baltimore, the city with the most automobile accidents in the entire United States.

Likewise, and always in relation to the 42,939 deaths in 2021, throughout the country; Of these, 8,587 deaths were pedestrians, so it is urgent to adopt additional measures to those currently in place, in order to strengthen the safety of pedestrians when traveling through the country's streets.

Thus, of the total 42,939 deaths due to traffic accidents in 2021, 561 of them, that is, 1.3%, died in the State of Maryland. It seems little, but it is not like that, since we are talking about 561 families that suffered the impact of losing one of their loved ones, and who, I affirm with complete certainty, were in their productive stage, so the economic impact these families is much more serious than one might believe.

In addition, it is worth noting the fact that, and for the purposes of our petition, of these 561 deaths due to traffic accidents in the State of Maryland, in 2021, 129 of them were pedestrians, many of whom lost their lives precisely when trying to cross one of our roads. In other words, if we do nothing, in ten years, in Maryland, another 5,610 people would have lost their lives as a result of traffic accidents, of which 1,290 would be pedestrians who would die while trying to cross the street, being within their right. for it.

II.- José's accident

I met José when I had just arrived in Montgomery Village, Maryland, back in March 2022, when I had just come to reside in the United States a couple of months ago, along with my wife and two children. Since then, my family began to cultivate a good relationship with José, whom we saw every time we went to enjoy a good ice cream, since José works in a sorbet shop.

Speaking with José, at that time he told me that he traveled six days a week, from his home to his workplace, approximately a distance of thirty miles, that is, he traveled an average of 60 miles a day, all by bus. Then, after months of cultivating this friendship, at the beginning of December 2023, my family decided to bring José and his coworkers a sample of the typical food of our country - my family and I are from El Salvador - upon finding out upon arrival that José had been hit by a vehicle while trying to cross a street, being five minutes from his house. As a result of the impact, José suffered fractures in one of his legs, and several blows

to his arms, which led him to stop working for the entire month of December 2023 and January 2024, months in which he did not obtain any income. .

Thanks to God and good medical care, José is currently recovering and has started working, but not in the best conditions, since his wounds have not completely healed and he has to attend therapy every three weeks. When talking to José about how the accident occurred, he told me that he has always been careful when crossing the streets, and that the day of the accident was no exception, so when he reached an intersection he looked everywhere, in order to verify that no vehicle was coming, and that it also had the right of way. Once this was verified, he proceeded to cross the street within the pedestrian zone, and had not taken even three steps, when he was attacked by a vehicle whose driver - who was coming behind him - turned to his right, with the light showing red. . Although this turn is permitted at the location where the accident occurred, this accident could have been avoided if the driver had taken proper precautions before making the turn to his right.

III.- Proposal

Likewise, the accident could have been avoided if Montgomery County, to date, had already placed signs, if not at all possible intersections, or at least at those intersections where, due to the high influx of pedestrians - and cyclists - -, PROHIBITING ANY TURN TO THE RIGHT WHEN A TRAFFIC LIGHT IS ON A RED SIGNAL, thus forcing the desperate or aggressive driver to have to stop completely and prevent him from making turns to his right, despite the traffic being red. traffic light, since it is this permissiveness that precisely causes pedestrians to become victims of a traffic accident.

A measure like the previous one, especially in school zones, hospitals, elderly care centers, among others, would save hundreds of lives every day, and would also generate millions of dollars in savings on hospital expenses. If there had been a sign like the one proposed, in

the place where JOSEPH had his accident, a cross that to this day José crosses every day, he definitely would not have been run over. This accident in which, it is unfortunate to note, a vehicle from a public institution in Montgomery County was involved.

Sincerely,

Alvaro Huevo

Montgomery County, April 8, 2024.