WHEREAS, Arlington County endorses development, implementation, and monitoring of a Vision Zero strategy to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all; and

WHEREAS, one death or severe injury on Arlington County’s streets is one too many; and

WHEREAS, collisions resulting in death or severe injury are not inevitable but can be prevented through changes in human behavior, technology, and designs that accommodate multimodal uses; and

WHEREAS, a commitment to Vision Zero is a commitment to life and equitable opportunity for all people in Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero unequivocally supports the County Vision: “Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important.”; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County is recognized and strives to be continually acknowledged nationally and internationally as a healthy, attractive, desirable and safe place to live and work; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County promotes a focus on reducing single occupancy vehicle rides and encouraging walking, bicycling, transit, and carsharing/carpooling, which emphasizes safety for all roadway users and encourages more active transportation, thereby supporting public health; and

WHEREAS, the principles of a Vision Zero commitment are supported in the County’s Comprehensive Plan, including the goals and policies of the County’s Master Transportation Plan (updated in 2017) and elements thereof, the County’s Community Energy Plan (adopted in 2013), the County’s General Land Use Plan (updated 2018) and the Public Spaces Master Plan (adopted 2019); and

WHEREAS, Vision Zero focuses on safety as the principal objective for our multimodal transportation system; and

WHEREAS, between 2013 to 2018, the average number of collisions per year is 2,425 and the average number of collisions resulting in injury was 680. In this same timeframe, Arlington County’s population has increased by 5.8% and the number of collisions resulting in death or severe injury has decreased by 5.9%; and
WHEREAS, preventing collisions in the County necessitates an analytical and systemic approach to street planning, design, policy, enforcement, legal processes, education and communication; and

WHEREAS, implementing a Vision Zero commitment requires the continued support of residents, business owners, and visitors—acting as individuals and collectively through neighborhood or advocacy organizations to improve the safety, comfort, and usability of County streets for all users; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County will join other leading cities around the nation and around the world in a commitment to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries, work which has demonstrated success when coupled with adequate funding, staff resources, and top-down support for its implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA:

1. Arlington County hereby adopts the Vision Zero strategy as a comprehensive and holistic approach to eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries.

2. The County Board directs the County Manager to develop Vision Zero Goals and a Vision Zero Action Plan for future consideration by the County Board, based upon a comprehensive analysis of traffic collisions and other indicators of traffic safety in Arlington.

3. The County Board directs the County Manager to ensure that the Vision Zero Goals and Action Plan address any demonstrated inequity in traffic deaths and serious injuries through a combination of engineering, enforcement, education, encouragement, and evaluation.

4. The County Board directs the County Manager to engage the community in the development and implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan.

5. The County Board directs staff to provide an annual report on implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan and quarterly summaries of traffic fatalities, severe injuries, and other collisions to actively track the County’s performance.

6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.