

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to implementation of a policy to utilize the terms “crash,” “collision,” and “incident,” in lieu of the term “accident” when discussing traffic crashes in any document or communication, except for instances where the City Attorney deems it necessary to use “accident” in litigation and related matters.

Recommendation for Council action:

NOTE and FILE the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) report dated February 15, 2024, and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) dated March 14, 2024, attached to Council file No. 23-1051.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Not applicable.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

**SUMMARY**

At a regular meeting held on March 20, 2024, your Transportation Committee considered Departmental reports relative to implementation of a policy to utilize the terms “crash,” “collision,” and “incident,” in lieu of the term “accident” when discussing traffic crashes in any document or communication, except for instances where the City Attorney deems it necessary to use “accident” in litigation and related matters.

The LAPD report states that the Department’s current use of the terminology “crash”, rather than “collision” or “accident” reinforces the acknowledgment for traffic crash crime victims, wherein motorists intentionally crash into other vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians, or when a collision results from reckless behavior, such as drunk driving or street racing. Furthermore, the LAPD change from 2021 has aligned the City with other state and federal entities, which had already adopted this change in support of greater accuracy and consistency.

The LADOT in their report states agreement with the policy to avoid using the term “accident” when discussing traffic crashes, and instead use the terms “crash,” “collision,” or “incident.” This terminology supports the work LADOT leads to improve streets for safety, as it emphasizes that crashes are not simply unavoidable mistakes, but results of preventable actions and a transportation system that can be improved to reduce such incidents.

After an opportunity for public comment was held, the Committee moved to note and file the LAPD and LADOT reports, as mentioned above. This matter is now forwarded to City Council for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

<b>MEMBER:</b>	<b>VOTE</b>
HUTT:	YES
PARK:	YES
HERNANDEZ:	YES
RAMAN:	YES
YAROSLAVSKY:	ABSENT