

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO 2018 - 2019 CIVIL GRAND JURY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*** PRESS RELEASE ***

Are Pedestrians Safe on the Sidewalks and Streets of SF in the Era of Electric Mobility Devices?

San Francisco, CA, July 17, 2019 – The 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury (SFCGJ) released a report featuring this question. Pedestrians are the most vulnerable road users-accounting for half of all San Francisco traffic fatalities. As of May 11, 2019, the death of another pedestrian marked the eighth death so far in 2019--four times the number that occurred the same time in 2018.

E-scooters arrived in 2018. This mode of transportation followed various other types of motorized bicycles, skateboards, and unicycles already using the streets and sidewalks of San Francisco. These new devices quickly generated conflict with pedestrians, as some under-informed e-scooter customers used sidewalks as their preferred travel lanes to minimize their own risk of collisions with cars. The expectation of pedestrian safety is eroded when pedestrian rights-of-way are ignored on sidewalks as well as in intersections.

This SFCGJ investigation reviewed the status and progress of San Francisco's efforts in regard to pedestrian safety and emerging mobility options. The key Findings and Recommendations focus on ways to improve **education** and outreach for pedestrians and motorized device users; **enforcement** of existing ordinances and laws to help reduce injuries; **injury data** to capture and identify root causes; and **contractual terms** regarding liability and responsibility for injuries, device maintenance and repair.

Civil Grand Jury reports may be viewed online at <http://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/report.html>.

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