



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boston At-Large City Councilor Julia Mejia to Host Emergency Town Hall with District Councilors Flynn and Pepén Regarding Quality of Life and Safety Concerns Related to Motorcycles, Mopeds, and Unlicensed Vehicles

BOSTON, Monday – Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia is hosting a **virtual emergency town hall on Thursday July 18th, 2024, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM** alongside her colleagues Councilors Ed Flynn and Enrique Pepén to address the escalating quality of life and safety concerns that motorcycles, mopeds, and unlicensed vehicles pose to our communities. Recent incidents and concerns demand a comprehensive community response to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents.

Recent incidents, such as a pack of more than 100 bicyclists and motor scooter riders taking to Interstate 93, concerns regarding the road safety that off-road vehicles are engaging in, and most tragically, a recent fatality involving a suspect on a scooter, have heightened community awareness and concern.

“In light of the most recent incident impacting the Báez family, our office is responding by not only providing the Báez family with the support services they need, but we are also seizing this moment to convene all stakeholders and to bring people together so that we can work collaboratively to address the social, emotional, mental, and physical impact that unlicensed and uninsured mopeds, scooters, and other vehicles are having on our community. As previous attempts have demonstrated, for example in 2020, our office held a virtual town hall where over 350 people participated, and as a result of that, a task force was created to address the fireworks issue. We believe that by convening people on an issue that impacts everyone, we will identify the tools and the resources needed,” said Councilor Mejia.

“My condolences are with the family of Mr. Báez, whose untimely departure has deeply saddened us all. Sunday night’s tragedy prompts us to confront difficult reality and to ask ourselves what immediate actions city officials need to take to improve our community's safety



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and well-being. Sadly, this is not an isolated incident in my district. Just this past February, we mourned the loss of another resident in a similar tragic accident at the intersection of Washington St and Bexley Rd in Roslindale,” said Councilor Pepén. “In response to these tragedies, I am pleased to co-host a town hall meeting, in collaboration with Councilor Mejia and Councilor Flynn. This meeting provides a platform for residents and city leaders to engage in a vital discourse. Together, we will explore meaningful solutions to address these critical issues and ensure the safety of all members of our community.”

“In a hearing order from February regarding transportation planning, I called on the city to focus on regulating the increased public safety challenges with the usage of mopeds, scooters up to 25 mph, and other devices from third-party delivery drivers. Residents across Boston have witnessed speeding along our streets and sidewalks, often running stop signs and red lights, going the wrong way on one-way streets, and navigating between vehicles either in traffic or at traffic lights,” said Councilor Flynn. “Everyone using city roads needs to abide by the rules of the road. If you’re able to go 25mph like a car- you should be licensed, registered, and carry liability insurance in the event of an accident and injury. I continue to advocate for strict enforcement from Boston Police and arrests for reckless driving, if warranted. It can no longer be the Wild West on the streets of Boston.”

The emergency town hall will feature Dr. Gayl Crump-Swaby, community advocate Elizabeth Amador, a BPD officer, and those impacted by this issue.

This community discussion invites community members, local businesses, law enforcement agencies, and all stakeholders to come together in a dialogue about effective strategies to combat these issues. By working together, we can create a safer and more livable city for all.

To join the conversation, go to www.facebook.com/JuliaforBoston.