



Chinatown Community
Development Center



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Pedestrian Death Sparks Call to Action in Chinatown

**Family members, community members, and city leaders gathered to mourn
Pui Fong Yim Lee's death and fix dangerous streets**

San Francisco – on a somber morning, family and community come together to honor the death of Pui Fong Yim Lee, a 78 year-old grandmother of eight and retired music teacher, who was hit and killed by a driver turning left onto Stockton St. from Sacramento St. on Saturday, September 20th.

Yim Lee was an ardent, rule-abiding pedestrian -- always exercising great care, and admonishing her children and grandchildren to obey traffic laws. Yet, for all her caution, this senior couldn't escape the poor design of a notorious intersection. She lost her life to the dangerous left-hand turns, which have plagued this intersection, one of the city's high-injury corridors, for years. In fact, three days after Yim Lee's death, another senior was stuck and seriously injured in the same location, from the same dangerous driving behavior.

Stockton Street has long been one of the most dangerous streets for pedestrians. The City adopted Vision Zero this spring, and last December, it released WalkFirst, a list of quick, effective engineering interventions to fix these known problem streets. But today, Chinatown community members are calling on the SFMTA to speed up implementation and take action on this intersection before any additional lives are lost.

Reverend Norman Fong, the Executive Director of Chinatown Community Development Center said, "We successfully won the implementation of pedestrian scrambles at all the Stockton intersections cutting through Chinatown except this one—the most dangerous one. Today, we're demanding that MTA prioritize safety over speed, and install a pedestrian scramble at this intersection, and restrict left turns until the scramble is in place."

A pedestrian scramble, which stops all vehicle traffic while pedestrians cross both straight and diagonally through the intersection, is proven to reduce vehicle collisions with pedestrians by 35%, and is one of the "quick and cost-effective" tools outlined in the city's WalkFirst plan.

Walk San Francisco's Executive Director, Nicole Schneider noted, "Stockton is one of the 6% of streets accounting for 60% of pedestrian fatalities. Unfortunately, these streets most often cut through our city's low-income communities and communities of color, causing an injustice on our streets." She pointed to the City's WalkFirst strategy as a tool to address inequities and eliminate the serious and fatal crashes that plague our streets and communities.

"Let her death be the last", said Geen Phone Lee, son of Yim Lee, in calling for pedestrian improvements to this Sacramento and Stockton intersection.

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Chinatown Community Development Center (ChinatownCDC.org) believes in a comprehensive vision of community that includes a quality environment, healthy neighborhood economies, and active volunteer associations. Chinatown CDC is committed to empowering low-income residents, building coalitions, embracing diversity and advocating for social and economic justice.

Walk San Francisco (WalkSF.org) and its members are making San Francisco a more welcoming place for everyone to walk. Walk SF speaks up for the safety and priority of pedestrians, and works to reclaim streets as shared public space.