



## MEDIA STATEMENT

**For Immediate Release:** September 22, 2017

**CONTACT:** Cathy DeLuca, Interim Executive Director, 415.610.8025, [cathy@walksf.org](mailto:cathy@walksf.org)

### **Two People Killed in Seven Days: "One is Too Many," Says Walk SF**

San Francisco, CA – Early this morning, another pedestrian was killed in San Francisco. Gus Vardakastanis, a beloved community member, was killed in a hit-and-run in the Bayview. This tragedy follows on the heels of another crash last Friday that took the life of Winifred Leshane, killed while walking in SoMa on Dore Street.

Two people killed in a week is too many. One is too many. We can stop this. Most crashes in San Francisco are predictable, which means they are preventable. Jerrold Avenue, where Mr. Vardakastanis was killed, is one of the city's high-injury corridors — the 13% of city streets where 75% of severe and fatal crashes happen. We know that streets like Jerrold are dangerous, which means we can do something about them. We can redesign our streets to have safer speeds, safer space for walking, and better visibility, so no more people have to die.

City agencies and City leaders must act swiftly to reach the Vision Zero goal to end all severe and fatal traffic crashes by 2024. Every second that improvements are delayed, lives are at risk. The City knows which streets are dangerous, and the City has proven tools to make our streets safe for everyone. We are counting on the City to act.

No one else should die on our streets, and no one else should have to say goodbye to someone they love because of a preventable crash.

There is no time to waste.

###

**Walk San Francisco** and its members are making San Francisco a more safe, walkable city and reclaiming streets as shared public space for everyone to enjoy. [www.WalkSF.org](http://www.WalkSF.org)

**Vision Zero: Zero traffic deaths and serious injuries.** No loss of life on city roadways is acceptable when serious and fatal traffic collisions can be prevented. By engineering safer streets, enforcing traffic laws more effectively, and targeting traffic-safety education, cities that adopt Vision Zero policies can eliminate ALL serious and fatal traffic-related injuries, for people in cars, on bikes, and on foot alike. Both San Francisco and San Jose have adopted Vision Zero.