



**COUNCILMEMBER JIM GRAHAM
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WARD ONE**

PRESS RELEASE

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**Graham Introduces Bill to Protect the Elderly and Young
From Potential Sidewalk Bicycle Hazard**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Councilmember Jim Graham (D-Ward One) introduced legislation to prohibit the riding of bicycles and Segways on sidewalks wherever a bicycle lane is available, today at the Council’s Committee of the Whole meeting. Graham introduced the bill after receiving many reports of bicyclists who ride on the sidewalk without sufficient regard for the safety of pedestrians, especially the elderly, mothers with young children, and others. This problem was tragically demonstrated four years ago when while walking in an alley near the Convention Center, a 78 year-old man and his wife were knocked to the ground by a speeding “hit-and-run” bicyclist. The elderly man was killed and his wife was hospitalized.

In recent years, the District has emerged as one of the foremost cities for bicycling in the U.S. through the building of dozens of miles of bike lanes, and through its pioneering and successful Capital Bikeshare program. Graham stated “With so many miles of bike lanes now available, I think it’s time that rather than riding on sidewalks, bicyclists and others be required to use bike lanes. I think this bill will help to encourage the construction of even more bicycle lanes for the safety of all”.

Current District regulations only allow persons operating bicycles and Segways to ride on sidewalks beyond the Central Business District, and only “in a safe and non-hazardous manner”. This bill would require that wherever a bicycle lane in the same direction is available, bicyclists and Segway operators would be required to use the bicycle lane. Exempted from this requirement are children 12 years and younger, and bicycles with wheels less than 20 inches.

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