

Jonathan Freeman, PhD and Janet Rogers.

Safe Walkways

Finally, Solutions For The Problems Created By The Motorized Scooter Rental Industry

Safe Walkways Releases Proposals To End Rented Scooter Chaos

San Diego, CA: Today, *Safe Walkways*, an advocacy group for the safety of pedestrians, announced its solutions to the problems created by the motorized scooter rental industry. They include an update to the 2019 City ordinance governing “Shared Mobility Devices”, (SMDs)*, and proposals for costless actions the City can take, based on the proposals of **Todd Gloria** when an Assembly Member and the 2019 **County of San Diego Grand Jury Report**. The *Safe Walkways* proposals are endorsed by both **Disability Rights California** and the **Downtown Community Planning Council**.

The proposed solution is simple: **Keep motorized rental scooters in the street, not on walkways and apply sanctions that get the companies to do so.** The major proposals to improve pedestrian safety include:

- **End “Dockless”:** Expand the Downtown “corrals-only” policy, i.e. SMDs may only be parked or staged in City-designated corrals in the street, throughout the City and do not place corrals on streets where SMDs are prohibited.
- **Abolish the Three-hour Wait and Notification:** The City may immediately move or impound SMDs not in corrals.
- Prohibit driving SMDs in “**The Gaslamp Zone**”, (5th Ave. from Harbor Drive to Broadway).
- **End anonymity:** Require SMDs to display an easily visible **plate**.
- Impose a **curfew** ending at 9pm on SMD renting.
- **Limit The Number of Companies:** Implement a **Request For Proposals** process through which a small number of rental companies are selected.
- **Limit The Number of Vehicles:** Issue permits for **not more than fifty-percent** of the total city-wide capacity of corrals.
- Require the companies to **apply State laws**, [“VC §” refers to Vehicle Code Section]:
 - Prevent motorized scooters on **roads faster than 25mph** without a bike lane. [VC § 21235 (b).]
 - Display a “**One Rider Only**” sign. [VC § 21235 (e).]
 - **Verify that the license photograph matches** the person opening an account. [VC § 21235 (d) and § 14608.]
 - Require use of technology to **warn the company when a SMD is on its side**. [VC § 21235 (l).]
- **Apply Enforcement:**
 - Enable Parking Enforcement to issue **parking tickets** to the owner of a SMD not in a corral.
 - Create processes for the **renewal** and **revocation** of permits.
 - Restore the City’s **impounding** service.
 - Create a schedule of **finest** for company infractions.
 - Give the SDPD the funds to **ticket law-breaking**, including sidewalk driving.

About Safe Walkways: Safe Walkways is a group of San Diego citizens concerned about the adverse impacts the motorized scooter rental industry has on the walkability of the city, especially the beach communities and downtown. Founded in June 2018, it advocates for action to restore the safety of pedestrians on walkways which used to be safe. Members of the group also include national cycling experts, people with disabilities and those concerned about the same issue in the USA and globally.

*SMDs potentially include motorized scooters, motorized bikes and electric bikes but all the rental companies offering SMDs in San Diego have only requested permits for motorized scooters.