

Statement of Richard G. Alexander prepared for presentation to the Senate Transportation Committee.

I am Richard "Alex" Alexander submitting written testimony as a life-long bicyclist in support of Senate Bill 274.

On 19 September 2016 I was bicycling in the right half of the right lane east-bound on SE 37th Street. There were three flashing red lights on my backpack and a red horizontal light bar on the rear-facing radar unit on the seat post. A motor car travelling in the same direction struck the rear of the bicycle, destroying it in the process and leaving it lying at the side of the road.

I was separated from the bicycle, lofted into the air, landing face down on the roadway amid parts of the vehicle that had broken loose from the impact. The driver fled the scene. The driver, a sixteen-year old student told her mother that she had struck a mailbox.

Her mother in sussing out the circumstances for the damage to the vehicle found the road blocked by emergency responders. As I was being prepared for transport to the hospital ER she arrived with her daughter in tow at which point the driver gave a written statement blaming the sun and an oncoming vehicle as causes for the accident. Notwithstanding the driver's leaving the scene of an injury accident and failing to observe the three-foot rule in passing a bicyclist, **no traffic citations were issued.**

Having witnessed the accident from beginning to end, the driver of the vehicle immediately to the rear of the hit-and-run vehicle stopped, summoned medical assistance, and began administering first-aid.

At the hospital it was determined that there were no broken bones. Lacerations on both hands and a hip were sutured. Abrasions on leg, hip, arm, shoulder, and head received attention. As I was encountering vertigo and low blood pressure upon standing, the ER doctor ordered admission for observation and discharge the next day.

There were two weeks of very painful and limited mobility followed by three weeks of physical therapy at an out-patient facility. With instruction from the rehab center a physical exercise regimen was followed for the next six months.

The end result of this accident is a significant diminution of the pleasure formerly enjoyed in 65 years of bicycling. Where formerly I felt quite confident in riding I now feel considerable anxiety with each ride. The absence of accountability in my accident is not helpful or comforting.

The proposed change in road regulation and stronger enforcement of existing regulations vis-à-vis accidents involving bicyclists could each have a more positive effect in enhancing awareness of the need to exercise greater care in sharing the road with bicyclists.

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