

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Chicago Ride of Silence™ to be held May 15, 2019

**One day. One time. Worldwide.
In collaboration with Vision Zero Chicago,
focusing on the Downtown High Crash Area**

We ride...

- * To HONOR those who have been injured or killed**
- * To RAISE AWARENESS that we are here**
- * To ask that we all SHARE THE ROAD**

On Wednesday, May 15th, Chicago cyclists will join fellow cyclists around the world on an annual bicycle ride in silence to raise awareness of cyclists' right to ride on the road and to honor the fallen cyclists no longer with us. The 2019 Chicago Ride of Silence will collaborate for a second year with the Vision Zero Chicago initiative that aims to eliminate traffic crashes that cause death and serious injury through an equitable distribution of resources and inclusive community engagement. The initial Ride of Silence was founded in Dallas, Texas, in 2003; the first Chicago Ride of Silence was in 2005.

“This year’s Chicago Ride of Silence will follow a route centralized around the city center, to both further emphasize the efforts of the Vision Zero Downtown campaign and to highlight the cycling and pedestrian fatalities from the past year in this area,” said Chicago Organizer Elizabeth Adamczyk.

Beginning in Daley Plaza, Chicago's Ride of Silence™ route will ride in silent procession along a 5-mile route through the Downtown, visiting the 2018 crash sites of cyclists Angela Park at Madison and Halsted and Raul Ortiz-Gomez at Erie and Ogden where a ghost bike is placed in his memory. Ghost Bikes are powerful memorials to fallen cyclists created by painting a bicycle white and placing it at or near the site of the cyclist’s death. The Ride will also visit the ghost bike of Lisa Kuivinen on Milwaukee Avenue, a highly trafficked corridor by bicyclists and noted

by the City as one of Chicago's 43 High Crash Corridors. The Ride will conclude at Keating Law Office (825 N. Milwaukee) across from Lisa Kuivinen's ghost bike, where participants can learn more about the city's Vision Zero Chicago Action Plan. Active Transportation Alliance Ambassadors will also be present before and after the Ride to collect petition signatures for the [state capital bill ask for \\$50 million dollars in funding for safe streets](#).

The Vision Zero Chicago Action plan, released in 2017, identified the Downtown as one of the City's eight High Crash Areas. Within Chicago's Central Business District, the serious crash rate is nearly double the rate citywide. Vulnerable road users in the Downtown are disproportionately affected, as 39% of serious crashes and 55% of fatal crashes involve a victim who is walking or biking. The Vision Zero Downtown crash reduction planning process is in its final stages and recommendations will be released early in the summer for infrastructure, policy, and education strategies to improve safety for all people who live, work or travel in the area.

This year Illinois has nearly 20 Rides occurring in communities throughout the state. "The Ride of Silence honors cyclists around the world to give a voice to those who can no longer ride with us to advocate for safer roadways for all," said Adamczyk.

The Chicago Ride of Silence is hosted with the Chicago Cycling Club and asks that all participants please RSVP to the event at www.rideofsilence.org/chicago and check-in before the Ride.

The ride organizers request that black armbands be worn and red armbands if you have had a bike/motor vehicle accident. Helmets are required; bright clothing and lights are highly recommended for the ride home. There are no fees charged to participate.

The Ride will conclude with a post-ride reception at 825 Milwaukee (Keating Law Office), rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, participants are asked to gather at the post-ride reception location for refreshments, snacks, and more information about Chicago's Vision Zero initiative.

The Ride of Silence is held in many locations in the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, South and Central America and the rest of the world. This year there are nearly 300 locations registered throughout the world.

Details:

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

6PM Gather; 6:30 PM Departure

Start: Daley Plaza; Eternal Flame

Finish: post-ride gathering at Keating Law Office (825 Milwaukee Ave); all are

welcome

ABOUT THE RIDE OF SILENCE

Mission Statement:

The mission of the worldwide Ride of Silence™ is to honor bicyclists killed by motorists, promote sharing the road, and provide awareness of bicycling safety.

Founder and President Chris Phelan organized the first Ride of Silence in Dallas in 2003 after endurance cyclist Larry Schwartz was killed by a passing bus's mirror on an empty road.

The Ride of Silence is a free ride that asks its cyclists to ride no faster than 12 mph for no longer than an hour

The ride hopes to raise cycling awareness during bike safety month to motorists, police, traffic engineers, insurance companies, and city officials. The ride is also a chance to mourn, in funeral procession style, those who have already been killed.
www.rideofsilence.org

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