**No Excuses!**

Bicycle accidents are an epidemic, especially in the Cleveland area. We do not want excuses when a careless, distracted or impaired driver hits a fellow cyclist! This is why I am launching the “No Excuses!” campaign to bring bicycle safety and awareness to the public.

1. Operate your bicycle as a driver of a car. “Vehicular Cycling” a term coined by John Forester, means treating your bicycle as if it were a vehicle operating under the standard traffic rules. Cyclist that follow these rules are in 75-80% fewer accidents.

2. Wear a helmet. Ohio law does not mandate the wearing of a helmet, but some cities can and do regulate the wearing of a helmet, especially for minors.

3. Be Visible, especially at night. Bright at Night is Right! Always wear bright contrasting clothing. At night or early morning, have a bright front and back light **AND** wear reflective clothing.

Ohio Revise Code § 4511.56. minimally requires the following at night:

* A lamp mounted on the front of either the bicycle or the operator that shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the front and three hundred feet to the sides. A generator-powered lamp that emits light only when the bicycle is moving may be used to meet this requirement.
* A red reflector on the rear that shall be visible from all distances from one hundred feet to six hundred feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle;
* A lamp emitting either flashing or steady red light visible from a distance of five hundred feet to the rear shall be used in addition to the red reflector. If the red lamp performs as a reflector in that it is visible as specified in division (A)(2) of this section, the red lamp may serve as the reflector and a separate reflector is not required.

**Remember Cleveland’s 3 Foot Buffer Rule**

§ 431.03 Overtaking, Passing to Left; Driver’s Duties: The operator of a motor vehicle overtaking a bicycle proceeding in the same direction on a roadway shall leave a safe distance, but not less than three (3) feet, when passing the bicycle and shall maintain that distance, and shall not increase the speed of his or her vehicle, until safely past the overtaken bicycle. The same requirements shall apply to the operator of a commercial motor vehicle, commercial truck, commercial unit, or bus, except that the safe distance shall not be less than six (6) feet.

Please join me in keeping the roads and fellow cyclist safe.