

Wilmington, Delaware
June 17, 2021

#0080

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
N. Field**

WHEREAS, over 50 percent of the five million annual car crashes in the United States are caused by aggressive drivers, with speeding being the most prevalent contributor, according to TeenSafe. Speeding killed 10,111 people in the U.S. in 2016, accounting for twenty seven percent of all traffic deaths, according to the National Transportation Highway Safety Administration and speed was a factor in 31% of U.S. teen driver deaths; and

WHEREAS, EverQuote Auto Insurance released a distracted driving survey in 2016. 42 percent of surveyed drivers do not consider driving 10 mph over the speed limit to be speeding. The survey also found that fifty percent of the time drivers speed at least 10 mph over the speed limit. The economic cost of speed related crashes, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, is about \$52 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of speed limits helps keep speeds down. Traditional enforcement is carried out by police officers to measure speed with radar and other technology. Automated speed enforcement allows red-light-running and speeding violation enforcement without diverting law enforcement resources from other areas. An automated system uses a camera and a speed measurement device to detect and capture images of vehicles travelling over the posted speed limit. It is designed to work in conjunction with other strategies, including education initiatives and traditional police enforcement.; and

WHEREAS, state laws regarding automated enforcement generally establish guidelines for municipal governments. Local governments in 22 states including Delaware use red-light cameras. Local governments in 16 states utilize automated enforcement via speed cameras. Locations for cameras are selected through a data-driven approach that considers speed and collision data; and

WHEREAS, the city of Philadelphia implemented an automated speed enforcement pilot program following 2018 changes in Pennsylvania state law. Speeding violations on one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the state (Roosevelt Boulevard) dropped 93% in the first nine months after automated enforcement cameras were installed. The speed cameras are part of Philadelphia's policy to reduce traffic-related deaths to zero by 2030 via engineering

changes that slow vehicles and increases enforcement and public education. The revenue generated from the fines finances a traffic-safety grants program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL that this Council strongly recommends that the Delaware General Assembly grant permission to the City of Wilmington to create an automated speed enforcement pilot program to install speed cameras in areas selected through data-driven approach to enhance safety and improve the quality of life for those who live in and travel to Wilmington.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution encourages the Delaware General Assembly to allow an automated speed enforcement pilot program in the City of Wilmington.