

***Offered by Councilor Andrea J. Campbell***

Edwards, Flynn, Janey, McCarthy O'Malley, Wu, Ciommo, Essaibi-George, and Flaherty



**City Of Boston  
CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN

***ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE  
POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT  
WITHIN BPD AND EXPLORING THE PROS AND CONS OF  
INSTALLING TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS***

***WHEREAS***, In 2016, the City of Boston lowered its speed limit to 25 miles per hour, and is again considering lowering the speed limit to 20 miles per hour; *and*

***WHEREAS***, Lowering the speed limit without effective enforcement is futile; *and*

***WHEREAS***, According to a recent Boston Globe review, Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicle records demonstrate that Boston police issued 20,300 moving violations last year (about 3 for every 100 city residents) which is “about half of what is handed out by police in Brookline, Chelsea, or Somerville, and a quarter of the 12.3 violations per 100 city residents issued last year in New York City,” *and*

***WHEREAS***, The City has adopted “Vision Zero,” a plan to eliminate fatal and serious traffic crashes in the City by 2030, and “Neighborhood Slow Streets,” a program aimed at reducing the number and severity of crashes on residential streets and lessening the impacts of through traffic by installing traffic calming measures including speed humps and signage and pavement markings; *and*

***WHEREAS***, The budgets for “Vision Zero” and “Neighborhood Slow Streets” are insufficient to address the pressing and immediate traffic and public safety concerns of our neighborhoods; *and*

***WHEREAS***, Other cities including New York, Seattle, and Los Angeles have installed traffic cameras as a way to compliment police enforcement of traffic violations, and address speeding cars and red light violations; *and*

***WHEREAS***, There are mixed reviews on the use of traffic cameras with some municipalities finding, for example, a reduction in speeding cars and crashes, and others finding an increase in rear-end crashes, concerns about the reliance of these citations to balance municipal budgets, and possibly

a disproportionate impact on communities of color or severe hardship on those least able to pay; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

***ORDERED,*** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the possibility of creating a traffic enforcement unit within BPD and the pros and cons of adopting and installing traffic cameras for speeding and red light violations. Those invited to provide testimony will include the Boston Police Department, the Boston Transportation Department, along with other interested parties.

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