



Transportation, Traffic and Parking

City of New Haven

200 Orange Street, G3

New Haven, CT 06510

Justin Elicker

Mayor

Sandeep Aysola

Director

March 8, 2024

Honorable Tyisha Walker-Myers
President, New Haven Board of Alders
City of New Haven
165 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: Proposed Amendment to the New Haven Code of General Ordinances Chapter 29 (New) Article VII – Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices. Sec 29-137 to 29-146 (inclusive)

Dear President Walker-Myers:

Please accept this request to amend the New Haven Code of General Ordinances to add Chapter 29 Article VII – Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices. Sec 29-137 to 29-146 to allow use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Device (ATESD) in accordance with Public Act 23-116 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Vision Zero Council. The Act establishes a framework by which the City of New Haven may adopt the use of ATESDs at locations within school zones, pedestrian safety zones, and other places within the city following the adoption of a municipal ordinance and approval of an operations plan by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT).

Over the years, I am grateful for the Board's support of traffic safety initiatives put forth by the New Haven Police Department and our office. Still traffic safety for all road users remains a serious issue across the neighborhoods. Over a three-year period between 2020 and 2022, there were more than 5,000 red-light crashes state-wide with a majority of them (604 crashes) occurring in New Haven. Additionally, the city experienced more than 700 speeding-related crashes during the same three-year period, that included more than 200 crashes with fatalities and serious injuries. Studies have shown that both speeding and red-light running crashes have a significantly large impact on fatal and serious injury crashes, with destructive impacts on economically and socially disadvantaged communities.

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Last year, the State of Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 23-116 which included more tools to support our collective traffic safety efforts. Automated enforcement is one such enforcement tool that can be utilized by the City of New Haven (the “City”) to reduce the prevalence of excessive speeding and running red lights, as well as to improve roadway safety for all users. More importantly, this vision of significantly reducing and eventually eliminating serious roadway injuries and deaths aligns with the City’s long-term safety vision plan, known as Safe Routes for All, and the United States Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS).

Public Act 23-116 sets forth the parameters and framework for a local ATESD program. The proposed ordinance follows the framework and includes by way of example the conditions under which a motor vehicle may be cited for speeding or running a red-light and the associated fine. The ordinance also details various operational protocols such as permissible uses of the technology, privacy, alleged violation adjudication and available recourse for appeal.

Of note, adoption of this ordinance will not immediately result in installation of ATESDs in New Haven. This ordinance and its accompanying operations plan (the “operations plan”) is the first step necessary to begin the process of implementation. To fully effectuate an ATESD program, the Board of Alders-approved operations plan must be submitted and approved by CTDOT. Of note, the operations plan identifies any proposed camera locations and include justification for installation in accordance with the Public Act 23-116 and CTDOT guidance. I have included the proposed locations in this communication along with the research and analysis leading to these recommendations and I look forward to presenting the operations plan at the Board’s committee hearing.

Thank you in advance for your support of this very important traffic safety initiative and I look forward to working with you on the responsible implementation of an ATESD program for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "A. Sandeep".

Sandeep Aysola

Director, Transportation, Traffic & Parking

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