



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0093

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: January 20, 2026

TITLE: Public Hearing and Second Reading - Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 by
Creating a New Article X Entitled School Zone Speed Enforcement Act –
(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission make a motion approving an ordinance amending Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new Article X entitled School Zone Speed Enforcement Act after making a finding that based upon the traffic data and evidence presented, it is appropriate to utilize speed limit detection systems at the thirty-eight (38) school zone locations identified in Section 26-255 of the Ordinance, due to the heightened safety risk that warrants additional enforcement measures pursuant to Section 316.008, Florida Statutes.

Background

On April 28, 2023, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill 657 ("HB 657"), which was codified as Section 316.008(9), Florida Statutes. This statute authorizes cities to enforce the applicable speed limit on roadways properly maintained as school zones through the use of a speed detection system.

Pursuant to Florida Statute 316.008(9)(c), a county or municipality must enact an ordinance in order to authorize the placement or installation of a speed detection system on a roadway maintained as a school zone. As part of the public hearing on such proposed ordinance, the county or municipality must consider traffic data or other evidence supporting the installation and operation of each proposed school zone speed detection system, and the county or municipality must determine that the school zone where a speed detection system is to be placed or installed constitutes a heightened safety risk that warrants additional enforcement measures.

Specifically, HB 657 authorizes counties and municipalities to place or install, or contract with a vendor to place or install, speed detection systems to enforce school zone speed limits for violations in excess of ten (10) miles per hour (MPH) over the applicable speed limit. This enforcement applies during times when children are going to or from school (beginning thirty (30) minutes before the start of a breakfast program or scheduled school

session and ending thirty (30) minutes after the end of a scheduled school session), and throughout the entire school session.

City staff coordinated with Marlin Engineering Inc. (Marlin), an existing City-approved consultant, to collect speed data for the twelve (12) recommended schools included in Phase 1. The Phase 1 schools were identified through Fort Lauderdale Police Department observations, Transportation and Mobility Department feedback, and a review of traffic data that existed at that time. City Commission Memorandum No. 25-048 (Exhibit 1), issued on May 6, 2025, provided the City Commission with an update on the Automated School Zone Speed Detection Camera Program and identified the Phase 1 recommended schools as follows:

- District 1
 - Bayview Elementary School
 - Cardinal Gibbons High School
 - Sunrise Middle School

- District 2
 - Fort Lauderdale High School
 - Thurgood Marshall Elementary School
 - Virginia Shuman Young Elementary School

- District 3
 - Saint Thomas Aquinas High School
 - Sunland Park Elementary School
 - Walker Elementary School

- District 4
 - Croissant Park Elementary School
 - Harbordale Elementary School
 - Stranahan High School

Marlin completed speed and volume data collection in May 2025, while school was in session. Data was collected for three (3) consecutive school days. The roadway configuration surrounding each school identified thirty-eight (38) recommended school zones for the twelve (12) schools. Based on the collected traffic speed data (Exhibit 2), speeds in the recommended school zones exceeded the posted speed limit by more than ten (10) MPH during one (1) or more school periods. City staff recommends the City Commission approve the proposed ordinance to allow for the installation of speed detection systems due to a heightened safety risk that warrants additional enforcement measures.

As such, the proposed ordinance (Exhibit 3) establishes:

- Authorization for the use of speed detection systems in school zones;

- Implementation and enforcement procedures;
- Public awareness campaign requirements;
- Reporting obligations;
- Designation of local hearing officer; and
- Determination of heightened safety risk and designation of school zones as part of Phase 1.

Tangentially, the Automated School Zone Speed Detection Camera System, Request for Proposals (RFP) Event No. 483, was issued on July 1, 2025. During the RFP response period, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), on July 21, 2025, revised the School Zone Speed Detection System Placement and Installation Specifications. The RFP deadline was extended two (2) times to accommodate sufficient time for proposers to address the addendum to the RFP. Proposals were submitted by the new deadline of August 29, 2025.

On November 21, 2025, the Evaluation Committee heard presentations and discussed proposals submitted by four (4) of the responsive and responsible firms. Upon posting the Notice of Intent to Award, a protest was filed on December 3, 2025. The protest is currently being reviewed and a determination is forthcoming.

The contract award is anticipated in early 2026, and the intent of the contract is to allow for the expansion of the program in the future. Incorporating additional schools as part of future phases of the program will be subject to additional data collection(s) and ordinance amendment(s), as required by the Florida Statute.

On January 6, 2026, the City Commission approved the first reading (CAM #25-1193) of the proposed ordinance without any modifications.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Safety initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area, Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.
- The Infrastructure Focus Area, Goal 4: Facilitate an efficient, multimodal transportation network.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Connected.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Memorandum No. 25-048

Exhibit 2 – Traffic Data

Exhibit 3 – Ordinance

Exhibit 4 – Business Impact Estimate

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