



Agenda Item Summary Report

Meeting Date:
October 20, 2025

Submitted by:
Michelle Bailey Hedgepeth, Town Administrator
Tyrone Collington, Police Chief

Item Title: ORDINANCE 07-2026 | SECOND READING - An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Bladensburg to amend penalties, remedies, and fees to change or establish certain fines or fees; and generally relating to automated traffic enforcement systems.

Work Session Item [X]
Council Meeting Item [X]

Documentation Attached:
Ordinance 07-2026

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends final approval of Ordinance 07-2026, which updates the Town code and amends the Traffic Control Monitoring Section. This would update the penalties, fines, and fees for violations.

Purpose & Summary: Ordinance 07-2026 seeks to enhance the Town of Bladensburg's automated traffic enforcement program by formally adopting Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems provisions. This ordinance aims to improve public safety by enforcing compliance with red-light traffic signals and establishing updated penalties, fines, and fees for violations.

Key Provisions

- **Establishment of Red-Light Camera Enforcement (§112-13)**
 - The ordinance codifies the use of automated **Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems** for red-light violations.
 - Violations will be processed in accordance with Maryland state law and will be subject to municipal penalties.
- **Updated Fines & Fees for Violations**
 - Changes to make the fees consistent with recent State Laws that went into effect on October 1, 2025.
- **Other Administrative Fees**
 - **Returned Check Fee:** Increased from **\$35 to \$50**.
 - **Flagging Fee:** Increased from **\$40 to \$60**.
 - **Debt Collection Fee:** Unpaid fines may be referred to a collection agency, with additional fees not exceeding twice the amount owed, in accordance with State Law.
 - **Boot/Immobilization Fee:** A new **\$100 fee** for vehicles immobilized due to outstanding violations.
- **Enforcement & Collection Measures**
 - The Town's contractor will handle collection efforts for unpaid violations.
 - Unresolved fines may lead to **vehicle registration holds** with the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration.
 - The Town retains the authority to adjust fines and fees via formal Council resolutions.

Legislative Process & Implementation

- **Effective Date:** 10 days after adoption (October 20, 2025)

Impact on Residents & Visitors

- Drivers must adhere to red-light signals to avoid significant fines and penalties.
- Residents with outstanding violations must promptly address fines to avoid late fees, registration holds, or collection actions.
- The ordinance reinforces Bladensburg's commitment to public safety and responsible traffic enforcement.

Conclusion: Ordinance 07-2026 enhances the Town's ability to enforce traffic laws through automated systems, ensuring compliance and promoting safer roadways. The structured fine system encourages timely payments while implementing safeguards against non-compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, the Town Administrator or Chief Collington can answer them.

Budgeted Item: Yes [] No [X]
Budgeted Amount:\$
One-Time Cost: NA
Ongoing Cost:

Continued Date:

Council Priority: Yes [] No []

Approved Date: