

**COTTAGE CITY COMMISSION  
TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY**

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY AMENDING CHAPTER 9 (TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY AMENDING SECTION 9-15 (SPEED MONITORING SYSTEM PENALTIES; USE OF REVENUE) TO CHANGE OR ESTABLISH CERTAIN SPEED CAMERA FINES TO BE BASED ON A GRADUATED SCALE DEPENDING ON THE EXCESSIVENESS OF THE SPEEDING INVOLVED AS PERMITTED BY STATUTE; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS AND TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES**

Introduced By: Wanda Wheatley, Commissioner-Chair

**WHEREAS**, on May 30, 2021, the General Assembly of Maryland enacted HB 619 (Ch. 447 of the 2021 Laws of Md.) authorizing, in addition to designated school zones, the placement of speed monitoring systems (also known as speed cameras) in Prince George’s County on highways in residential districts with a maximum posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour to be effective on October 1, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 8, 2021, the Cottage City Commission enacted Ordinance No. 2021 – 03 authorizing the use of speed monitoring systems in the Town of Cottage City and establishing the penalty for a speed limit violation recorded by said system, and the means for processing citations for speed limit violations recorded by a speed monitoring system; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 182 effective on October 1, 2025 repeals a statutory provision that sets a maximum amount of \$40 for the civil penalty for speed monitoring systems that is imposed on the owner or driver of a motor vehicle that exceeds a posted speed limit and is recorded by a speed monitoring system, and instead, the bill establishes an escalating penalty structure, with a maximum penalty that ranges from \$40 to \$425 for the offense, depending on the excessiveness of the speed violation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cottage City Commission finds it to be in the best interest of the Town, local pedestrians and the motoring public to establish a graduated fine for speed camera violations that varies from the maximums allowed by state law and more reasonably suits local needs by establishing a penalty that ranges and/or includes fines of \$40, \$70, \$100, \$200, and \$300 for the offense, depending on the excessiveness of the speed violation.

**SECTION 1.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE COTTAGE CITY COMMISSION**, that the Code of the Town of Cottage City as amended herein below is

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CAPITALS	:	Indicate matter added to existing law	Page 1 of 4
[Brackets]	:	Indicate matter deleted from existing law	
Asterisks * * *	:	Indicate that text is retained from existing law but omitted herein.	

hereby enacted, adopted, revised and amended such that said Code and the provisions of said Code and particularly Chapter 9 (Traffic and Vehicles) thereof shall henceforth read as follows:

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## CHAPTER 9

### TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

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#### **SECTION 9-15: SPEED MONITORING SYSTEM PENALTIES; USE OF REVENUE**

(a) A civil penalty in the [~~amount of \$40~~] AMOUNTS STATED IN SUBSECTION C OF THIS SECTION per violation [~~is~~] ARE hereby established for speed monitoring system violations, subject to an additional late fee if not paid within thirty (30) days after the issuance of the citation. the penalty shall be paid to the Town of Cottage City, and all unpaid violations shall be forwarded for collections actions, except that, in a contested case before the District Court of Maryland, the penalty shall be collected by the District Court in accordance with §7-302(a) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article of the Maryland Annotated Code and §21-809 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Annotated Code and distributed in accordance with §12-118 of the Transportation Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, as any of the foregoing may be amended from time to time.

(b) Revenue received by the Town from THE speed camera program shall first be used to recover the costs of implementing and administering the program. Any remaining balance shall be used for public safety purposes as permitted by state law and as set forth in the annual budget adopted by the Cottage City Commission.

(C) A VIOLATION OF SECTION 9-13 (SPEED-MONITORING SYSTEMS) SHALL BE DEEMED A CIVIL INFRACTION PURSUANT TO § 21-809 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AND THE PENALTY SHALL BE A FINE OF THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

(I) IF THE CITATION ALLEGES THAT THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXCEEDED THE SPEED LIMIT BY BETWEEN 12 AND 15, INCLUSIVE, MILES PER HOUR, \$40;

(II) IF THE CITATION ALLEGES THAT THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXCEEDED THE SPEED LIMIT BY BETWEEN 16 AND 19, INCLUSIVE, MILES PER HOUR, \$70;

(III) IF THE CITATION ALLEGES THAT THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXCEEDED THE SPEED LIMIT BY BETWEEN 20 AND 29, INCLUSIVE, MILES

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PER HOUR, \$100;

(IV) IF THE CITATION ALLEGES THAT THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXCEEDED THE SPEED LIMIT BY BETWEEN 30 AND 39, INCLUSIVE, MILES PER HOUR, \$200; AND

(V) IF THE CITATION ALLEGES THAT THE DRIVER OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE EXCEEDED THE SPEED LIMIT BY 40 MILES PER HOUR OR MORE, \$300.

**SECTION 2.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, that severability is intended throughout and within the provisions of this Ordinance, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, then that decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION 3.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, that Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be codified and included within the Code of the Town of Cottage City.

**SECTION 4.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, that this Ordinance is an Emergency Ordinance and shall become effective immediately.

**SECTION 5.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, that a fair summary of this Ordinance shall be published at least once within ten days after the date of passage in a newspaper or newspapers having general circulation in the Town.

**SECTION 6.**

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED**, that the Commissioner-Chairman shall be authorized to sign this Ordinance on behalf of the Commission.

**HAVING BEEN INTRODUCED AND HAVING BEEN READ** as an emergency ordinance and passed by a yea and nay vote of the Cottage City Commission with the affirmative votes of at least four (4) of the whole number of members elected to the legislative body as indicated below at a Public Meeting of the Town of Cottage City held on this 8th day of October 2025, at 7 o'clock PM., in the Town Hall in Cottage City, Maryland.

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**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the above Emergency Ordinance No. 2025-02 was passed by the required yea and nay votes of the Cottage City Commission on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025.

ATTEST:

TOWN OF COTTAGE CITY, MARYLAND

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hoatson, Town Manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wanda Wheatley, Commissioner-Chair

CERTIFICATION

I, HEREBY CERTIFY, as the duly appointed Town Manager of the Town of Cottage City, Maryland, that on the 8th day of October 2025 with \_\_\_\_\_ Aye votes and \_\_\_\_\_ Nay votes, the aforesaid Emergency Ordinance 2025-02 passed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Hoatson, Town Manager

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