



ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2025

FROM: Andrea McCue, City Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Ordinance No. 2025-02 School Zone Speed Detection System Program – First Reading

BACKGROUND

In 2023, the Florida Legislature authorized municipalities to install speed detection systems to enforce school zone speed limits. Following this legislative change, the City of Greenacres evaluated traffic data indicating significant speeding violations within City school zones. In 2023 alone, 707 speeding citations and 247 written warnings were issued within Greenacres school zones.

To enhance public safety and protect children traveling to and from school, the City Council directed the development of a program utilizing automated speed detection systems to assist in enforcing school zone speed limits.

ANALYSIS

Ordinance No. 2025-02 amends Chapter 9 of the City's Code of Ordinances to establish a School Zone Speed Enforcement Program. Key provisions include:

- Authorizing the placement and installation of speed detection systems in designated school zones that present heightened safety risks.
- Establishing program administration, including the designation of the Special Magistrate as the local hearing officer and City staff as the clerk.
- Outlining enforcement procedures, fines, public awareness requirements, and annual reporting obligations.
- Designating the initial school zones for speed detection system installation (specific schools to be listed by resolution).

The ordinance aligns with Chapter 316, Florida Statutes, and ensures due process rights for violators through a hearing process.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Costs associated with the installation, operation, and enforcement of the program will be managed through agreements with qualified vendors. Any revenues generated from fines will be collected and distributed in accordance with applicable Florida law.

LEGAL

The ordinance is consistent with state law, including recent amendments to Chapter 316, Florida Statutes. Legal review confirmed compliance with all due process and enforcement requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of Ordinance No. 2025-02, amending the City Code to create a School Zone Speed Detection System Program to enhance the safety of children and the public in designated school zones.