



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	May 23, 2024
Originating Department	Executive
Contact Person	Mayor French Phillip Hill, City Administrator Kim Adams Pratt, City Attorney
Title	Ordinance 24-1293/Amending Chapter 10.06, Traffic Safety Cameras of the Lake Forest Park Municipal Code related to fines for Traffic Safety Camera infractions

Legislative History

- First Presentation – April 22, 2024, City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - Second Presentation – May 16, 2024, Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
 - Third Presentation/Action – May 23, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting
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Attachments:

1. Ordinance 24-1293 - Amending LFPMC 10.06.010 and 10.06.050
 2. House Bill 2384
 3. 2023 Safety Camera Program Analysis
 4. 2024 NE 178th St. Traffic Safety Camera Analysis
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Executive Summary

In the 2024 Legislative Session, House Bill 2384 passed both chambers to become law effective June 6, 2024. With the new law, the new maximum fine for a traffic camera infraction is set at \$145.00 and allows for that fine to be doubled for a school speed zone infraction.

At the April 22, 2024, City Council Committee of the Whole meeting, Mayor French presented a proposal to amend the city’s municipal code to raise the fine for traffic camera infractions from \$136.00 to \$145.00 and to \$290.00 for repeat offenses in school zones and for any offense in excess of 11 miles per hour over the posted school zone speed limit. Draft Ordinance 24-1293, reflecting those proposed changes, is attached.

Background

Traffic volumes on the city’s collector roads are continuing to increase with the region's growth, and with the new light-rail lines in Shoreline and Mountlake Terrace opening in the Fall of 2024, this trend will likely continue. As an example, NE 178th Street's annual traffic increased 23% in 2023 to 1.6 million vehicles, resulting in a 12%-14% increase in traffic safety camera citations.

The table below is from the city’s recent speed analysis conducted by Transpogroup, which identified 7,903 citations in 2023 in this one school zone. While just over 90% of these violations are one-time offenders, nearly 10% (757) of the citations are repeat offenders. The rationale behind the sliding fee scale is to impress upon repeat offenders the city’s desire to improve pedestrian safety in school zones.

Table 3. School Speed Camera Citations Records by Time of the Day

Time Period	% of Total Citations	Average Number of School Zone Citations per Hour per Day ¹	Average Number of School Zone Citations per Hour per Year
7-7:59 AM	8%	4	607
8-8:59 AM	18%	8	1,460
9-9:59 AM	14%	6	1,092
10-10:59 AM	-	-	-
11-11:59 AM	2%	1	132
12-12:59 PM	1%	-	72
1-1:59 PM	4%	2	301
2-2:59 PM	15%	6	1,147
3-3:59 PM	24%	11	1,925
4-4:59 PM	15%	6	1,167
TOTAL	100%	44	7,903

NOTE: 2023 data for both directions
 1. Represents the ratio of the average daily citations recorded by time of the day.

While less detailed analysis has been conducted for the Lake Forest Park Elementary school zone, violations increased from 7,256 in 2022, resulting in 5,442 citations, to 7,997 in 2023, resulting in 6,076 citations. That’s a 10.21% increase in violations and an 11.65% increase in citations.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

While traffic citation revenue will increase marginally with the base increase of \$9.00 per citation, revenue from repeat offenses and excessive speeds is unknown, as the intended outcome is to drastically reduce offenses in those two categories.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve Ordinance 24-1293/Amending LFPMC 10.06.010 and 10.06.050 	A new fine structure for automated traffic safety cameras will be authorized effective June 7, 2024.

- Do not approve Ordinance 24-1293 Amending LFPMC 10.06.010 and 10.06.050

The fine structure automated traffic safety cameras will not change.

Staff Recommendation

Approve Ordinance 24-1293/Amending LFPMC 10.06.010 and 10.06.050, increasing the base monetary penalty for Automated traffic safety camera citations from \$136.00 to \$145.00 and adding a base monetary penalty of \$290.00 for repeat offenses in school speed zones and a base monetary penalty of \$290.00 for any offense more than 11 miles per hour over the posted school zone speed limit.