

TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

155 F Road Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470



AGENDA MEMO

TO: Town Council of Town of Loxahatchee Groves

FROM: Glen J. Torcivia, Town Attorney

DATE: November 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2024-15 First Reading (School Zone Speed Enforcement Program)

Background: During the 2023 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed CS/CS/HB 657 (“HB 657”), amending certain provisions of state law governing the use of speed detection systems in school zones, which became law effective on July 1, 2023. As the Council is aware, speeding in designated school zones presents a threat to the health and safety of the public, and, in particular, all school aged children who attend school in the Town. HB 657 authorizes the Town to place or install, or contract with a vendor to place or install, speed detection systems in school zones in accordance with certain technical specifications established by the Florida Department of Transportation. This new law also authorizes the Town to enforce school zone speeding violations. To enforce such Ordinance (attached), the Town is considering contracting with RedSpeed Florida, LLC (“RedSpeed”). RedSpeed will be responsible for the installation and monitoring of the speed detection systems, working with the Town’s law enforcement agency, Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, to issue notices of violation and uniform traffic citations for violations of sections 316.1895 and 316.183, Florida Statutes, that are captured by the speed detection system during specified time periods.

The Ordinance provides for the administration and procedures needed for the implementation of this program. The Ordinance includes provisions such as the authority of the Town to use speed detection systems to enforce speed limits in school zones; statutory requirements for program implementation; use of PBSO’s traffic enforcement officers and the Town’s special magistrate(s) to enforce the speed zones and Ordinance; designation of school zones within the Town’s jurisdiction that have a heightened safety risk (as established by RedSpeed’s School Zone Speed Study on August 29th, 2024) (attached); enforcement procedures; and statutory fines.

Section 316.008(9)(c), Florida Statutes, requires, in part, that “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 pursuant to this subsection.” Therefore, the Council must consider the School Zone Speed Study and any other evidence presented and make a determination that the school zones within the Town’s jurisdiction and associated with Loxahatchee Groves Elementary School and the Royal Palm Beach Elementary School each constitute a heightened safety risk that warrants additional enforcement measures, i.e., speed detection systems.

Recommendation: Motion to approve *Ordinance No. 2024 – 15* on First Reading.