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CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: May 22, 2024

SUBMITTED BY: Elba Viruet, Police

ITEM TYPE: Ordinance

AGENDA SECTION: BUSINESS/ADVERTISING, PETITIONS, HEARINGS & COMMUNICATIONS

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE 4043 - SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BRADENTON, FLORIDA, RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT OF SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS; CREATING A NEW SECTION 50-82; AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT AND INSTALLATION OF SPEED DETECTION SYSTEMS ON ROADWAYS MAINTAINED AS SCHOOL ZONES; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SUGGESTED ACTION: Approval

Is this item Quasi-Judicial?

No

Does this item require a public hearing?

Yes

EXPLANATION:

The proposed ordinance authorizes the Bradenton Police Department, under a recent change to State law, to use speed detection systems to enforce applicable speed limits within school zones. The ordinance also identifies nine school zones located in the City of Bradenton where speed detection systems will be used. The program is expected to generate revenue and have no cost to the City.

Speed violations in school zones jeopardize the general public's safety, specifically children who are arriving at or departing school. The enforcement of speed limits in school zones with law enforcement officers alone can be difficult, as in the time a law enforcement officer has stopped and cited a speeding driver, other motorists can commit speeding violations and escape enforcement. To assist cities with the rising concern of speeding in school zones, House Bill (HB) 657 was signed into law during the 2023 Florida Legislative Session.

HB 657, among other things, authorizes cities to enforce applicable speed limits in school zones during school sessions "through the use of a speed detection system for the detection of speed and capturing of photographs or videos for violations in excess of 10 miles per hour over the speed limit in force at the time of the violation." HB 657 also provides that a city implementing speed detection systems "must enact an ordinance in order to authorize the placement or installation of a speed detection on a roadway maintained as a school zone."

Speeding in school zones creates a hazard and compromises the well-being of students and the public. A recent speed study indicated that there was a total of 3,287 daily violators of exceeding the speed limit by over 10 mph in the nine school speed zones identified in the proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance creates a social benefit for students and the public by enhancing their welfare and safety.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no negative impact expected and will likely be a positive impact.

ATTORNEY REVIEW/RECOMMENDATION:

Attorney Rudacille reviewed the ordinance.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

Motion to approve Ordinance 4043.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Ordinance 4043](#)