

STAFF AGENDA REVIEW WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: May 26, 2026

SUBMITTED BY: Monica Barros Assistant City Clerk

ITEM TYPE: Ordinance

TEMP. ORDINANCE NUMBER: TO#2628

AGENDA SECTION: **Ordinance(s) First Reading:**

TITLE: TO2628 - An Ordinance of the City of Tamarac, Florida, amending Chapter 14 of the City Code related to motor vehicles and traffic by creating a new article establishing the use of speed detection systems to enforce school zone speed limits in accordance with state law; providing for codification, severability, and an effective date.

RECOMMENDATION: The City Manager recommends that the City Commission adopt the proposed ordinance authorizing the use of School Zone Speed Detection Systems in accordance with Sections 316.008 and 316.1896, Florida Statutes, and authorize the City Manager or designee to implement and administer the program consistent with applicable state law.

BACKGROUND: In 2023, the Florida Legislature approved CS/CS/HB 657, codified within Sections 316.008(9) and 316.1896, Florida Statutes, authorizing municipalities to implement automated speed detection systems within school zones where a heightened safety risk exists.

Pursuant to Section 316.008(9), Florida Statutes, municipalities must hold a public hearing and adopt an ordinance authorizing the placement or installation of School Zone Speed Detection Systems prior to implementation of a School Zone Speed Detection System Program. As part of the public hearing, the City Commission must consider traffic data or other evidence supporting the placement and operation of each proposed school zone speed detection system and determine that the identified school zones constitute heightened safety risks warranting additional enforcement measures.

The legislation authorizes enforcement beginning 30 minutes before school starts, during the entirety of the

school day, and within 30 minutes after dismissal. Enforcement periods may also include authorized breakfast program times where applicable. Violations are enforceable for vehicles traveling more than 10 miles per hour above the posted school zone speed limit.

To evaluate speeding activity and potential safety concerns within Tamarac school zones, the City conducted a two day School Zone Speed Study through RedSpeed Florida, LLC from March 23 through March 24, 2026. The study evaluated five schools throughout the City during active school zone operational periods. (Exhibit 1)

Exhibit A - The study demonstrated significant speeding activity within multiple school zones, including:

School	Location	Total Violations (10+ MPH Over Limit)	Daily Average
Tamarac Elementary School	NW 80th Avenue	1,370	685
Discovery Elementary School	N Pine Island Road	979	489
Discovery Elementary School	W Commercial Boulevard	723	361
Renaissance Charter School	NW 82nd Street	663	331
Challenger Elementary School and Millennium Collegiate Academy Shared School Zone	W Commercial Boulevard	385	192

The traffic study identified recurring speeding activity within multiple school zones throughout the City, including vehicles traveling more than 10 miles per hour above the posted school zone speed limit during active school zone operational periods.

Staff also reviewed operational methodologies currently utilized by neighboring municipalities, including the Cities of Sunrise and Plantation. Under those programs, School Zone Speed Detection System cameras remain operational beyond active flashing school zone periods to support broader corridor speed compliance efforts. During active

school zone periods, violations are issued for vehicles traveling more than 10 miles per hour above the posted school zone speed limit, consistent with Florida law. For example, within a 15 MPH school zone, a violation would be issued at 26 MPH or greater.

Outside active flashing school zone periods, the cameras continue operating utilizing the roadway's regular posted speed limit. For example, on a roadway with a regular posted speed limit of 25 MPH, a violation would be issued at 36 MPH or greater. This operational methodology is intended to encourage long term driver behavior changes, improve speed compliance throughout the corridor, and reinforce safer driving habits both during and outside active school zone periods.

However, consistent with Commission discussion and direction provided during the April 6, 2026 meeting, staff is recommending implementation utilizing a more conservative approach focused solely on active flashing school zone periods associated with school operations. This approach allows the City to begin the program in a measured manner while preserving the ability to evaluate operational data, driver behavior trends, and overall program effectiveness following implementation

Should future traffic data or operational experience support additional enforcement measures, the City Commission may consider modifications to the enforcement methodology at a later date.

Consistent with Commission discussion and direction provided during the April 6, 2026 meeting, staff is recommending implementation utilizing a more conservative enforcement approach limited to active flashing school zone periods associated with school operations. Under this recommended approach, enforcement would occur only during designated flashing school zone times identified for each school zone based on current school operational schedules.

The following school zones and enforcement periods are based on current school operational schedules and active flashing school zone times:

Discovery Elementary School

Morning: 6:50 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Afternoon: 2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Flashing lights operate westbound on W Commercial

Boulevard from 8701 W Commercial Boulevard to 8901 W Commercial Boulevard during all enforcement periods. Posted school zone times are also located at NW 57th Street and N Pine Island Road.

Challenger Elementary School
Morning: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Afternoon: 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Flashing lights operate northbound and southbound on NW 94th Avenue and eastbound and westbound on Commercial Boulevard during both enforcement periods.

Millennium Collegiate Academy
Morning: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Afternoon: 4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Flashing lights operate northbound and southbound on NW 94th Avenue and eastbound and westbound on Commercial Boulevard during both enforcement periods.

Tamarac Elementary School
Morning: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Afternoon: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Flashing lights operate northbound and southbound on NW 80th Avenue at NW 75th Street during both enforcement periods.

Renaissance Charter School
Morning: 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.
Afternoon: 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Flashing lights operate eastbound and westbound on NW 82nd Street during both enforcement periods.

Based on the traffic study findings and prior Commission direction, the proposed Ordinance is being presented for Commission consideration to authorize the use of School Zone Speed Detection Systems in accordance with Florida law.

The proposed Ordinance:

- Determines that heightened safety risks exist within designated school zones identified in the traffic study and allows consideration of additional school zones in the future
- Authorizes the placement and operation of School Zone Speed Detection Systems in accordance with Florida law
- Requires compliance with statutory public awareness,

signage, reporting, privacy, and enforcement requirements

- Authorizes the City to enter into agreements necessary for implementation and operation of the program
- Designates a hearing officer process for contested violations

ISSUE:

Pursuant to Section 316.008(9)(c), Florida Statutes, the City must enact an ordinance in order to authorize the placement or installation of a Speed Detection System on a roadway maintained as a school zone prior to implementation of a school zone speed detection program.

STRATEGIC GOALS:

Goal #2 : Tamarac is Safe and People Know It

ATTACHMENTS: