



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CHILDREN'S SAFETY ZONE ORDINANCE

Council Authorizes Automated Speed Enforcement to Protect Children Across City

CHICAGO - The City Council today approved a plan to establish a Children's Safety Zone program and use automated speed cameras to enforce the posted speed limits in those zones. The safety zones are designated as within 1/8th of a mile from Chicago parks or schools. The speed cameras are one part of the "tool box" the City will use to enhance safety for our children and all residents in safety zones.

"There is nothing more important to the future of Chicago than the safety of our children," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "The Children's Safety Zone program will protect our children as they go to and from school, and as they play in our parks and recreational areas. Our city will be safer as a result, and we'll be in better position to achieve the quality of life that we are seeking for all Chicagoans, and help our residents and their children realize their dreams."

The state legislature passed a bill last fall allowing the City of Chicago to establish "safety zones" near schools and parks, and to use automated cameras to enforce speed limits in those zones. That bill was signed into law by Governor Pat Quinn earlier this year.

The City ordinance establishing the Children's Safety Zone program substantially narrows the hours and locations of enforcement that are allowed under state law, and provides for the following:

- The enforcement hours will be limited from 7 am to 7 pm in safety zones around schools on school days (Monday through Friday);
 - 7 am to 4 pm: 20 mph speed limit when children are present; 30 mph speed limit when no children are present
 - 4 pm to 7 pm: 30 mph speed limit



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- The enforcement hours around parks will be limited to only those hours parks are open (typically 6am to 11pm, 7 days a week) with a 30 mph speed limit;
- Only warnings will be issued for the first 30 days after a cameras are newly-established in a safety zone;
- The first time a vehicle owner is eligible to receive an actual ticket, they will instead receive a warning;
- Fines for violations are \$35 for vehicles travelling 6-10 miles per hour over the posted speed limit while in a safety zone, and \$100 for vehicles travelling 11 or more miles over the posted speed limit.

Further, the City is capping the locations where speed cameras can be installed to 20% of the 1,500 safety zone locations allowed by state law (approximately 300).

Locations will be chosen based on available data regarding traffic, speeding, and accidents, and with the input of an advisory committee that will include Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Pedestrian and Traffic Safety Committee, and religious, academic, public safety, and medical community leadership. The City will establish six geographical regions wherein no fewer than 10% of speed enforcement cameras will be located in each region.

In advance of the implementation of speed cameras, the City will conduct a 90-day public awareness campaign that will include public service announcements, ads and radar signs in safety zones to show driver speed. Further, there will be a substantial amount of information on the City's website regarding the program, including a map of safety zones and cameras; and quarterly reports including speeding, accident and ticket data.

All revenue from the program will be used for programs that enhance the safety of children, including afterschool, anti-violence and jobs programs; crossing guards and police officers around schools; and infrastructure improvements, such as signs, crosswalk markings and other traffic safety improvements.

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