



RESOLUTION NO. 2286-2022

A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWNSHIP OF HAVERFORD BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS URGING THE PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO USE SPEED RADAR OR LIDAR

WHEREAS, public safety is one of the primary functions of municipal government; and

WHEREAS, motorists traveling at excessive speeds is a public safety concern; and

WHEREAS, driving in excess of the posted speed limit is a violation of law; and

WHEREAS, speeding motorists on local roads is one of the most common safety concerns voiced by constituents to Haverford Township officials and staff; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 11,258 people died in speeding-related crashes in the United States in 2020 and that 87% of all speeding-related traffic fatalities occurred on local roads; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the distinction as one of the states with the worst record for speeding-related fatalities based upon statistics compiled by the NHTSA; and,

WHEREAS, according to a 2021 Pennsylvania Crash Facts and Statistics Report issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, 889 pedestrians were involved in car-related accidents in Townships and 76 of those accidents were fatal; and,

WHEREAS, radar and LIDAR are live-saving speed detection devices that have been used throughout the United States and by the Pennsylvania State Police to more precisely enforce speed limits; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania continues to be the only state in the nation that prohibits municipal law enforcement from using radar and LIDAR which are considered the safest, most efficient, and most economical speed-timing devices; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Haverford desires to utilize speed detection devices for the promotion of public safety and not for increased revenue, as only a small portion of the fines that are assessed for speeding go to the Township and any revenue received will be offset by personnel and other costs associated with these devices; and,

WHEREAS, the use of local speed detection devices will also further the existing policy of the Haverford Township Police Department not to employ bias-based policing practices; and,

WHEREAS, despite having bi-partisan support, many past bills authorizing local use of speed detection devices in the General Assembly have not successfully passed into state law, effectively preventing our municipal law enforcement from protecting residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haverford urges the General Assembly to expeditiously pass legislation that will authorize the local use of speed detection devices; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Township of Haverford calls upon our State Senator and State Representative to continue their advocacy for legislation that will promote the public safety of Haverford Township residents through the authorized use of speed detection devices.

Resolved this 14th day of November, 2022.

Township of Haverford



BY: C. Lawrence Holmes, Esq.

President



Attest: David R. Burman

Township Manager