

Work Session of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 immediately following the Public Facilities Authority Meeting (6:09 p.m.), Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Invocation

II. Staff Discussion Items

A. 2021-319 School Speed Zone Camera Enforcement

Mike Lindstrom, Captain, Sandy Springs Police Department presented the Sandy Springs Police Department's pending partnership with RedSpeed Georgia to utilize school zone speed enforcement cameras near schools in Sandy Springs. RedSpeed will purchase, install, and maintain the equipment. The City will receive 64% of fines collected, with all proceeds of the fines being used to support local policing initiatives. The Sandy Springs Police Department determined the school locations for the speed zone enforcement program are Dunwoody Springs Charter Elementary School, Riverwood International Charter High School, and North Springs Charter High School. If the program works well in the proposed initial schools, the department will entertain the possibility of installing them at other school.

RedSpeed will collect the tag and speed information for those speeding in the enforced zone, and send the verified tag information to the Sandy Springs Police Department. The Sandy Springs Police Department will review the validation prior to the citation being issued. A civil citation will then be sent to the subject who violated the speed zone, who will be given 35 days to respond.

RedSpeed will work with Sandy Springs Municipal Court to assist with training in the event a citation is contested. After several attempts to receive payment, civil ticket information will be referred to the Department of Revenue who may put a lean on their motor vehicle registration. The fine for the first offense is \$75, and \$125 for subsequent offenses. Subjects who have multiple violations will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

The benefits of the speed enforcement cameras include safety, accountability, no additional cost to the City, and the ability to capture images of license plates when school is not in session. A driver's license points will not be impacted and there are no insurance implications.

The purpose of the fine is to serve as a deterrent and to hold people responsible. The main goal of the program is to make schools safer.

Mayor Rusty Paul underlined that the state statute that authorizes this requires all fines to be placed in a fund to finance activities within the police department. There are over 20 schools in the City making it difficult to have a patrol car at every location while maintaining safety in the City of Sandy Springs.

Council Member Jody Reichel expressed her concern that the majority of citations may be given to high school students and questioned if students were the main subjects who violated the speed zone. The City should ensure the schools and principals aware of the program considering these could be high fines for a student.

Captain Lindstrom noted that Red Speed Georgia has a public service messaging system that can be utilized including social media assistance.

Council Member Andy Bauman asked can the Police Department require offenders complete a drivers safety class instead of a fine.

Dan Lee, City Attorney mentioned that this will be handled administratively and the subject of exchanging fines for driving classes has not been approached with RedSpeed.

Council Member John Paulson asked Captain Lindstrom to share the research they have done and if people are speeding during school hours at these schools which warrants the use of the program.

Captain Lindstrom advised that the Sandy Springs Police Department learned there is speeding in all school zones, but Dunwoody Springs Elementary, Riverwood Charter High School, and North Springs High School were identified as having the most frequently violated speed limits. RedSpeed will conduct an extensive speed study at these locations.

Council Member Paulson asked that the Police Department continue to review the data over the next year to review and confirm the program is valid.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio mentioned the concern that these citations are photo enforced and will be issued to the parents making classes a difficult option.

Captain Lindstrom confirmed picture of the license plate and vehicle will be used. Ultimately, the person responsible for the registration of the vehicle will receive the fine. The main purpose of this program is to make these school zones safer.

Council Member Chris Burnett asked if this is something that can be offered to private schools.

Captain Lindstrom informed Council that with how the law is currently written, permission would need to be given by the head of the school.

Chief Ken DeSimone highlighted that the program is about safety in school zones. An added benefit of the program is that it provides an extra license plate reader camera at the school zone all year. If a pedestrian is involved in a hit and run, the license plate would be available thanks to these cameras. With this program, the City of Sandy Springs would have control over the speed cameras. Notification will be received if a vehicle passes that may be a danger to the school, identified by the license plate. Ideally all private schools will utilize this program to give one extra level of protection to our students

City Attorney Lee stated violators have access to due process through the Sandy Springs Municipal Court.

Mayor Paul advised this will be reviewed again at a future meeting.

III. City Council Discussion Items

There were no City Council Discussion Items.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Approved: December 21, 2021.


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Raquel D. González, City Clerk

