

256. "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE USE OF AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES "

WHEREAS, pursuant Public Act 23-116, the State of Connecticut allows local municipalities to implement an automated traffic enforcement program; and

WHEREAS, an Ordinance is required to institute such traffic program; and

WHEREAS, automated traffic control has application of traffic safety and is appropriate within the City of Groton;

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall become effective upon passage;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROTON:

Pursuant to the authority granted in and by Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) § 14-307c, the so-called ATESD Act (the "Act") as such statute may be from time to time amended, the City of Groton (the "City") does hereby authorize the deployment and use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (alternately referred to as "ATESD"; "Device": "Devices", "Apparatus") at locations identified in a plan submitted to and approved by the Connecticut Department of Transportation ("Conn.DOT") within school zones, pedestrian safety zones, and other places within the boundaries of the City of Groton, Connecticut.

Sec. 1 Definitions.

For the purposes of this ordinance and as authorized by the Act, the following words, terms, and phrases used in this ordinance shall have the meanings and definitions ascribed to them in said CGS § 14-307c and as follows:

(a) Automated traffic enforcement safety device ("ATESD") means a Device or Apparatus designed to detect and collect evidence of alleged traffic violations by recording images that capture the number plate, date, time, and location of a motor vehicle that (i) exceeds the posted speed limit by ten (10) or more miles per hour or (ii) fails to stop such vehicle when facing a steady red signal on a traffic control signal.

(b) Automated traffic enforcement safety device operator ("Operator") means and is a person who is trained and certified to operate an automated traffic enforcement safety device.

(c) Code means the City of Groton Connecticut Code of Ordinances

(d) Pedestrian safety zone means an area designated by the Office of State Traffic Administration or the City of Groton Traffic Authority ("Traffic Authority") pursuant to CGS §14-307a.

(e) Personally identifiable information means information created or maintained by the City or a vendor that identifies or describes an owner and includes, without limitation, the owner's address, telephone number, number plate, photograph, bank account, credit and/or debit card number, or the date, time, location, or direction of travel on a highway.

(g) Driver, number plate and owner have the same meanings as ascribed to those words as provided in and by CGS section 14-1.

(h) School zone means an area designated by the Office of State Traffic Administration or the Traffic Authority pursuant to CGS § 14-212b.

(i) Traffic authority is the mayor, traffic control sign, and traffic control signal all have the same meanings as provided in CGS § 14-297,

(j) Vendor means a person or entity that provides services to the City pursuant to this ordinance and operates, maintains, leases, or licenses Apparatus, or is authorized to review and assemble the recorded images captured by an ATESD device and forward such recorded images to the City.

Sec. 2 Vendors .

The City may enter into contracts with vendors for the design, installation, operation, or maintenance, or any combination thereof, of Apparatus and ATESD services. If a vendor designs, installs, operates, or maintains a Device, the vendor's fees may not be contingent on the number of citations issued or fines levied or paid pursuant to this ordinance. Notwithstanding the City's purchasing procedures, contracts may be solicited and awarded to vendors by employment of the State of Connecticut bidding process, or by way of the processes and procedures. The vendor solicitation process employed shall be that selected by the City of Groton financial department in its sole discretion. The ultimate selection of vendors and awarding of contracts shall be made by said finance department in consultation with the City of Groton Chief of Police or their designee. All contracts for such Devices, and directly related ATESD services must be in writing. The approval by the legislative body to permit the mayor to execute all such contracts shall be granted at the time of the adoption hereof.

Sec. 3 Operation of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESDs) .

All automated traffic enforcement safety devices shall be operated by an automated traffic enforcement safety device operator.

Sec. 4 Violation.

(a) The owner of a motor vehicle commits a violation of this ordinance if the person operating such motor vehicle:

- (1) Exceeds the posted speed limit by ten (10) or more miles per hour and such operation is detected by an automated traffic enforcement safety device; or
- (2) Fails to stop such motor vehicle when facing a steady red signal on a traffic control signal and such failure is detected by an automated traffic enforcement safety device.

(b) Automated traffic enforcement safety devices shall be used solely for identifying violations of this ordinance.

(c) For the first thirty (30) days after a location is equipped with an operational Device, the owner of a motor vehicle that allegedly violates this ordinance that is detected by such device shall receive a written warning instead of a citation.

(a) Whenever an automated traffic enforcement safety device detects and produces recorded images of a motor vehicle allegedly committing a violation of this ordinance, a sworn member or employee of the Groton City Police Department shall review and approve the recorded images provided by such device. If, after such review, the member or employee determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation occurred, the member or employee may issue by first class mail a citation to the owner of such motor vehicle

(b) A citation under this ordinance shall include the following:

- (i) The name and address of the owner of the motor vehicle;
- (ii) The number plate of the motor vehicle;
- (iii) The violation charged;
- (iv) The location of the automated traffic enforcement safety device and the date and time of the violation;
- (v) A copy of or information on how to view, through electronic means, the recorded images that captured the alleged violation;
- (vi) A statement or electronically generated affirmation by the member or employee who viewed the recorded images and determined that a violation occurred;
- (vii) Verification that the automated traffic enforcement safety device was operating correctly at the time of the alleged violation and the date of the most recent calibration check performed pursuant to the Public Act;
- (viii) The amount of the fine imposed and how to pay such fine; and
- (ix) The right to contest the violation and request a hearing pursuant to CGS § 7-152c.

- (c) 1. In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in Connecticut, the citation shall be sent by first class mail not later than thirty (30) days after the identity of the owner is determined and shall be mailed to the address of the owner that is in the records of the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- 2. In the case of an alleged violation involving a motor vehicle registered in another jurisdiction, the citation shall be sent by first class mail not later than thirty (30) days after the identity of the owner is determined and shall be mailed to the address of the owner that is in any official record or the Motor Vehicle Department in the other jurisdiction issuing such registration.

(d) A citation not mailed to an owner within sixty (60) days after the alleged violation shall be invalid after the expiration of such time.

Sec. 5 Enforcement and Fine.

(a) This ordinance may be enforced by any sworn officer of the Groton City Police Department; such citation shall impose a fine against the owner of a motor vehicle that commits a violation of this ordinance.

(b) The fine for a first violation of this ordinance shall be the amount stipulated within Connecticut public act 23-116. The fine for each subsequent violation of this ordinance shall be the amount stipulated within Connecticut public act 23-116. These fines shall be imposed against the owner of the motor vehicle committing a violation of this ordinance.

(c) Payment of a fine and any associated fees may be made by electronic means.

(d) An administrative fee shall be imposed in addition to the fine amount and will not exceed the amount as stipulated within Connecticut public act 23-116. The purpose of the administrative fee is to cover costs associated with the electronic processing of the payment of a fine.

(e) All current fine and administrative amounts as part of the ATESD program, and allowable as per Connecticut public act 23-116, may be found on the city's annual fee schedule.

(f) Any funds received by the City from fines imposed pursuant to this ordinance shall be

used for the purposes of improving transportation mobility, investing in transportation infrastructure improvements, or paying the costs associated with the use of automated traffic enforcement safety devices within the city.

Sec. 6 Appeal.

Any owner issued a fine for violating the provisions of this ordinance may, within ten (10) days of the receipt of the fine, appeal in writing to a citation hearing officer in accordance with CGS § 7-152c, the provisions of which relating to hearing procedure are included herein, adopted and made a part hereof by reference.

Sec. 7 Defenses.

The defenses available to the owner of a motor vehicle that is alleged to have committed a violation of this ordinance shall include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following:

- (a) The operator was driving an emergency vehicle in accordance with the applicable provisions of CGS § 14-283.
- (b) The traffic control signal was inoperative, which is observable on the recorded images.
- (c) The violation was necessary for the operator to comply with an order or direction from a law enforcement officer, which is observable on the recorded images.
- (d) The violation was necessary to allow the passage of an authorized emergency vehicle, which is observable on the recorded images.
- (e) The violation took place during a period of time in which the motor vehicle had been reported as being stolen to a law enforcement unit, as defined in CGS § 7-294a, and had not yet been recovered prior to the time of the violation.
- (f) The automated traffic enforcement safety device was not in compliance with the calibration check required pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Act.

Sec. 8 Disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information.

- (a) No personally identifiable information shall be disclosed by the City or a vendor to any person or entity, including any law enforcement unit, except where the disclosure is made in connection with the charging, collection, and enforcement of the fines imposed pursuant to this ordinance.
- (b) No personally identifiable information shall be stored or retained by the City or a vendor unless such information is necessary for the charging, collection, and enforcement of the fines imposed pursuant to this ordinance.
- (c) The City or a vendor shall destroy all personally identifiable information and other data that specifically identifies a motor vehicle and relates to a violation of this ordinance not later than thirty (30) days after any fine is collected or the resolution of a hearing conducted for the alleged commission of such violation, whichever is later.
- (d) Any information and other data gathered from automated traffic enforcement safety devices shall be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined

in CGS § 1-200, except that no personally identifiable information may be disclosed.

Sec. 9 Compliance with CGS § 14-307c and Savings Provision .

To the extent of applicability and/or in the event this ordinance omits any material statutory element or requirement, the provisions of the Act that are necessary to further and/or effectuate this ordinance or to render this ordinance compliant with the Act are hereby incorporated and adopted in toto, herein.

Sec. 10 Severability and Repealer .

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. All ordinances, bylaws, orders, resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinances, bylaws, orders, resolutions, or parts thereof, heretofore repealed.

Sec. 11 Amendment by operation of law

Should CGS § 14-307c be amended or revised, then and in those events, this ordinance shall be automatically amended and revised to conform to such statutory revisions.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council Finally Approve “An Ordinance Authorizing the Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices”.

Initially Approved: November 18, 2024

Finally Approved: December 16, 2024

Keith Hedrick, Mayor

Dani Baycura, City Clerk