

**JOINT SPECIAL CALLED GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
AND COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2022 | 2:30 p.m.
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

**Councilor Clinton Woods, Committee Chair
Councilor Valerie Abbott and Councilor Carol Clarke, Committee Members**

Councilor(s) Present: Woods, Abbott, Clarke

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Councilor Woods.

II. Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2022

Action Taken:

Councilor Abbott Motioned to Approve.

Councilor Woods Seconded the Motion.

The August 10, 2022 Joint Governmental Affairs and Technology and Special Called Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes were approved as recorded.

III. Unfinished Business

a. Automated Traffic Enforcement

Tevin Jones presented an update on what automated traffic enforcement would look like in Birmingham.

Why Speeding Harms Communities:

- Speeding is the cause of approximately one-third of all motor vehicle fatalities.
- Speeding reduces the effectiveness of driver/passenger protection equipment.
- Speeding increases the severity of accidents and accident related injuries.
- Per 100,000 in population, Alabama as a state, performs significantly worse in the nation on an average and under-performs the best state.

Automated Traffic Safety Enforcement (ATSE) is the use of video technology to remotely monitor and enforce traffic violations.

Several cities across the country have implemented the program.

Portland, OR reported a 53% reduction in traffic fatalities.

Washington, DC reported a 70% reduction in traffic fatalities.

Chicago, IL reported a 31% decline in speeding vehicles.

Speed is the cause of approximately 1/3 of all traffic related deaths in America.

How the Technology Works

Stationery cameras monitor and capture violations.

The cameras can be mounted on traffic lights, signs inside neighborhoods.

Some municipalities mount the cameras on top of vehicles.

The recording is then sent to a third-party vendor, as well as an official designated by the City to review.

Once the recording is received, if the vehicle is found to be in violation, the civil fine is assessed against the registered owner of the vehicle.

Why Automated Traffic Safety Enforcement in Birmingham

It reduced the time that police spend on traffic crash sites.

It will free up resources in a way that will allow for more efficiency.

The technology prevents unnecessary interaction between police officers and the public.

It has a positive economic impact.

Nationwide, municipalities, counties and cities have made use of the technology at no cost to the entity.

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The fines fund the program.

The City's program related cost would be limited to personnel cost associated with quality control and program oversight.

In the City of Birmingham, all net gain from the program would be dedicated to communities/neighborhoods. A citation would only be issued if a driver is traveling a minimum of ten (10) miles over the speed limit.

There will be emphasis placed on hospital, school, and construction zones, as well as areas with a higher than average number of traffic accident occurrences.

According to the National Highway Safety Administration, reducing speeding and introducing speed cameras have reduced Injurious crashes by 20-25%.

Only one out of ten pedestrians survive being hit by a vehicle traveling 40 miles per hour.

Alabama experienced a \$1.53 billion total cost of traffic crash deaths.

Fewer accidents will reduce cost and alleviate some of the strain on emergency response departments and law enforcement.

Drivers who receive a civil fine will have an opportunity to appeal it.

Action Taken:

Councilor Abbott suggested reducing the over-limit speed for issuance of a citation to 5 mph and allocating the funds to fix the problems with traffic safety.

Councilor Clarke suggested placing more signage and public education.

No Action – Information Only.

IV. New Business
None

V. Adjournment
Councilor Clarke Motioned to Adjourn.
Councilor Abbott Seconded the Motion.
The Meeting was Adjourned.