

THE CITY OF NEWPORT

RESOLUTION

OF THE

COUNCIL

No.2025-144

CITY OF NEWPORT

**Resolution to Reduce Speed Limits to 20 Miles Per Hour
In All School Zones in the City of Newport**

- WHEREAS**, the safety and well-being of Newport's children, families, and school staff is a top priority for the City of Newport; and
- WHEREAS**, school zones are high-traffic areas during morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups, with children walking, biking, and crossing streets often during peak traffic times; and
- WHEREAS**, according to the Newport Transportation Master Plan (2016-2020), roadways in Newport, including around school buildings, experienced a notably high concentration of crashes during peak hours, with the geocoded crash data highlighting school zones as key hot spots; and
- WHEREAS**, the City's recent "Safe Streets and Roads for All" action plan (analyzed from 2019 to 2023) further confirms these areas as persistent cluster zones for collisions involving pedestrians and children; and
- WHEREAS**, RIDOT reports statewide that speed is a contributing factor in over 45% of all traffic fatalities, with over 16 pedestrian deaths in Rhode Island in the most recent year; and
- WHEREAS**, national traffic safety research shows that pedestrians struck at 20 mph have nearly twice the survival chance compared to those struck at speeds of 30 mph or higher; and
- WHEREAS**, many cities across the country, including Providence, have already implemented 20 mph school zone speed limits

as part of Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School initiatives, with enforced speed-management cameras reducing average speeds by up to 8 mph during school commute hours; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island state law allows municipalities to set lower speed limits in designated school zones for the protection of public health and safety; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Newport hereby directs the City Administration to: Establish a uniform 20 mph speed limit within 300 feet of all designated school zones in Newport (public, charter, and private K-12); AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the City Clerk shall forward this resolution to the Rhode Island Department of Transportation for any necessary coordination on state-maintained school-zone roadways.

ELLEN PINNOCK
STEPHANIE SMYTH
XAY KHAMSYVORAVONG
DAVID R. CARLIN III

IN COUNCIL
READ AND PASSED
AUGUST 13, 2025


LAURA C SWISTAK, CMC
CITY CLERK