

**CITY OF NORWALK
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 20, 2025
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

ATTENDANCE: Margaret (Lisa) Shanahan; Chair, Jalin Sead, Anne Wennerstrand, Nora Niedzielski–Eichner, Johan Lopez, Joshua Goldstein, Heather Dunn (7:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Brian Candela

OTHER: Jim Travers, Garret Bolella, Tom Livingston

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shanahan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Shanahan called the roll as represented above.

Council member Ms. Dunn joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Discuss and vote on new proposed ordinance: Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices

Mr. Travers described the ordinance saying it has been in development for over 15 years. He stated this ordinance enables municipalities to use camera detection technology to identify vehicles exceeding the speed limit and issue citations. He noted these are civil penalties, not traffic violations, and no points are assessed to the driver’s license. Mr. Travers explained the system captures the license plate and issues a citation similar to a parking ticket. He noted the technology used is the same as that employed for parking infractions. He said its purpose is to

curb speeding behavior on city streets, which remains the number one traffic complaint in Norwalk. Mr. Traverse concluded by saying all funds generated must be reinvested into safety improvements, such as sidewalks, under the new Complete Streets legislation.

Ms. Shanahan opened the floor for public comment followed by council questions after the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Wilson, Norwalk, CT:

Submitted written support for the ordinance, stating it will help deter speeding and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Amy Ableman:

Submitted a letter supporting the ordinance and called for sustained focus on traffic safety. She described excessive speeding on Hunt Street, especially by commuters avoiding I-95 congestion. She cited police presence having a positive impact and referenced recent accidents, including a child injured on Wilson Avenue and a neighbor's dog killed by a speeding vehicle. She emphasized the importance of using available technologies to make streets safer and urged city investment in infrastructure to support enforcement.

Lisa Chu & Tony Enrico, 76 Witch Lane:

Supported the ordinance, sharing personal experiences of dangerous speeding incidents, including a car veering into their yard. They voiced concern about increased speeding once road repaving removes current deterrents like potholes. They encouraged the implementation of automated enforcement as a necessary complement to TMP's pedestrian and school safety efforts.

Ryan Wilson, Norwalk:

Expressed strong support for the ordinance. He called for immediate action to address speeding, especially in areas frequented by children, and recommended deploying devices in high-risk and known cut-through streets.

Elizabeth Graves, 280 Rowan Avenue:

Supported the ordinance, citing speeding and cut-through traffic on streets such as Hunt Street and Old Witch Lane. She described the roads as unsafe for pedestrians due to narrowness, blind curves, and lack of sidewalks. She shared personal experiences, including pet fatalities and fears for children's safety. She also proposed launching a citywide "Stay Alive – Don't Text and Drive" campaign and offered to assist.

B. Discuss and vote on new proposed ordinance: Issuance of Citations; Hearing Procedure

Mr. Candela stated the proposed ordinance models the process used in Section 7-152c, which is currently followed by Planning and Zoning, and Blight Enforcement. It aims to create a model ordinance other departments can adopt to ensure due process for fined individuals, allowing independent hearing officers to determine whether proper procedures were followed and if a violation occurred. The ordinance pulls elements from multiple municipalities and ensures that people can challenge fines in a fair hearing process, much like existing procedures for Planning, and Zoning and Blight.

Ms. Niedzielski–Eichner had questions about the timelines that were clarified by Mr. Candela

She noted timelines are set by state law, and I appreciated his follow-up. She indicated she was comfortable with the current language.

Ms. Shanahan opened the public hearing on the citation issuance ordinance. There were no emails or written comments. There were no attendees who chose to speak.

- ** MR. SEAD MOVED TO BRING THE ITEM TO THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL.
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION

There was no discussion at this time.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present at this time.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Discuss and Vote on April 15, 2025 – regular meeting of the ordinance committee

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI–EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES**

Ms. Shanahan stated that Tom Livingston is referred to as "Attorney Livingston." While he is an attorney, that title doesn't apply here.

**** THE MOTION WITH THE AMENDED MINUTES PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discuss and vote on the Code of Ethics, Section 32-11, Subsequent Employment

Mr. Candela This item came from the Health Department concerning the hiring of a medical director.

Ms. Niedzielski–Eichner said the concern was balancing the ability to bring in qualified professionals, like a medical director, on a temporary or contractual basis without violating the ethics code. We clarified the language to make sure it doesn't unintentionally prohibit necessary appointments, while still maintaining transparency and integrity.

Mr. Sead added we also wanted to ensure that there's a clear timeline distinction so someone can't immediately take a position with a contractor or vendor related to the city after serving in a public role unless specific exceptions apply and are reviewed.

Ms. Shanahan indicated the revised language covers those nuances.

**** MR. SEAD MOVED TO IMPROVE THE REVISED SECTION AND SEND IT TO
THE FULL COMMON COUNCIL.**

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI–EICHNER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discuss and vote on the Vape Shop ordinance

Mr. Candela said the ordinance is designed to regulate the location and operation of vape shops,

particularly in proximity to schools, daycare centers, and similar sensitive locations. He stated they reviewed best practices from other municipalities and consulted public health data. The goal is not to ban businesses but to ensure they are responsibly located and managed, particularly given the increase in youth vaping.

Mr. Candela indicated there were no public comments or emails on this item.

Ms. Niedzielski–Eichner stated we’re not prohibiting businesses from operating, but we are being mindful of where they’re placed. Mr. Sead agreed saying it’s about reasonable regulation and protecting public health.

- ** MS. NIEDZIELSKI–EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE AND MOVE THE ORDINANCE TO THE COMMON COUNCIL.**
- ** MS. DUNN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

X. DISCUSSION

There was no further discussion at this time.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services.

Candela, Brian

From: Kim Wilson <kkloman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:16 AM
To: Candela, Brian
Subject: Public Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from kkloman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

I am supportive of the measure to deter speeding and keep our communities safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Kim Wilson
Norwalk, CT

Candela, Brian

From: Aimee Ableman <aimeeableman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Candela, Brian
Cc: Kimberly Wilson
Subject: Public Comment for May 20, 2025

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from aimeeableman@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

Dear Mr. Candela,

I understand that there is an ordinance meeting today, May 20th at 7 pm. On the agenda will be a discussion of automated traffic enforcement safety devices (ATESDs). I am not able to attend the meeting tonight because of another commitment, but I am writing to support the ATESD initiative specifically and to advocate for continuous attention to the matter of traffic safety on the streets of Norwalk.

Norwalk has made strides with encouraging citizens to walk and bike throughout the city by installing and improving sidewalks, investing in the Norwalk River Trail, and creating marked bike lanes. However, traffic keeps increasing and drivers are consistently driving above the speed limit. I live on Hunt Street between Witch Lane and Rowayton Ave. Hunt Street can look like a thoroughfare at times with drivers racing to the train, cutting through to avoid a very congested portion of I-95, or making deliveries. Sadly, both locals and non-locals alike are equally guilty. I am very thankful for the city and 6th Taxing District efforts to slow traffic down in Rowayton. Police presence at the intersections has resulted in hundreds of stops and has hopefully made drivers who frequent those roads think about their speed.

The recent bike and automobile accident on Wilson Ave. that resulted in a child being seriously injured has made everyone very concerned. It is chilling to think what that child, his family and his friends have to endure now. Additionally, our neighbors and friends the Wilsons on the other end of Witch Lane recently lost their dog because of a driver rounding the bend near their house at over 15 miles over the speed limit. I have copied Kim Wilson on this email.

I wholeheartedly support the installation of ATESDs and the investment in the supporting infrastructure and human resources to make it a reality in Norwalk. Our population in Norwalk continues to grow and traffic and speeding/distracted driving will only get worse unless we utilize the technology and systems available to monitor our streets and discourage irresponsible and thoughtless driving.

Investment in the installation of ATESDs will send a clear message to the citizens of Norwalk that our public safety is a main priority of the city government.

Thank you,

Aimee Ableman
35 Hunt Street
Norwalk, CT 06853

Candela, Brian

From: Lisa Chu-Ennico <lisaannechu@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 12:06 PM
To: Candela, Brian
Subject: CHU-ENNICO: Public Comment to be included in May 21 Ordinance Committee Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from lisaannechu@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

Dear Brian Candela,

We reside at 76 Witch Lane and are writing to express our strong support of the two proposed ordinances that are to be voted upon, at the meeting, this evening:

- 1) Use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices
- 2) Issuance of Citations

Over the 17 years that we have lived here, we have seen, first hand, numerous accounts of reckless driving behavior on the short stretch of road directly in front of our home. In one instance, a car was moving so fast that it had to veer off the road to avoid our nextdoor neighbor who was exiting his driveway. The speeding car ended up in our yard and twenty feet off the road. The car was certainly not traveling at the posted speed. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured in this instance. However, recently on another portion of Witch Ln, just up the road from us, our dear friends' dog was killed when struck by a motorist who was traveling 40 miles an hour in a 25 mile hour zone. This was on the heels of the hit and run on Wilson Ave., which landed a child in the hospital with serious injuries.

At the moment, Witch Lane, between Highland and Hunt Street, is riddled with potholes, which we believe, in recent months, has discouraged those who are aware of the street's condition to slow down for fear of losing a hubcap or wrecking their vehicle's suspension. However, the road is scheduled to be paved this summer. The smooth newly paved road will certainly invite speeding. In the absence of potholes and speed bumps, the implementation of ATESDs and citations will be the only thing that deters bad behavior.

We applaud Norwalk and the TMPs recent work on improving safe routes to school and efforts to increase pedestrian and bike traffic through the addition of sidewalks, crosswalks, signage, bike lanes, etc. The use of ATESDs and citations, in conjunction with these efforts, will make the streets safer for pedestrians, bikers and other motorists, alike.

Regards,
Lisa Chu and Troy Ennico

Candela, Brian

From: Ryan Wilson <rtw3@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:55 AM
To: Candela, Brian
Subject: Re: Public Comment: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices Public Hearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

How about this:

I, Ryan Wilson, a 10-year resident of Norwalk, support the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices in our town. Speeding has become a serious safety concern for our community. We must take action immediately to stop speeding on our residential streets, specifically around young children. Let's augment the great work of our local police by deploying ATESDs on well-known cut-through streets and in high risk areas.

> On May 20, 2025, at 11:07 AM, Candela, Brian <bcandela@norwalkct.gov> wrote:

>
> Ryan,
>
> There is a public record of your email. It will also be attached to the minutes from this meeting. I don't know if that changes how you want to proceed.

>
> Brian Candela
> Assistant Corporation Counsel
> City of Norwalk
> 125 East Avenue
> Norwalk, CT 06851
> General: (203) 854-7750
> Direct Dial: (203) 854-7295
> Fax: (203) 854-7901
> Website: <https://www.norwalkct.gov/>
> Email: bcandela@norwalkct.gov

>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Ryan Wilson <rtw3@me.com>
> Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:52 AM
> To: Candela, Brian <bcandela@norwalkct.gov>
> Subject: Re: Public Comment: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices Public Hearing

>
> [You don't often get email from rtw3@me.com. Learn why this is important at
<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

>
> CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

>
>
> If it's being read, then you can just read the first sentence. The rest of it was there in case there was a written public record.

>
>> On May 20, 2025, at 10:50 AM, Candela, Brian <bcandela@norwalkct.gov> wrote:

>>
>> Ryan,
>>
>> Please confirm that you would like me to read this email into the record and I will do so. Thanks and be safe.

>>
>> Brian Candela
>> Assistant Corporation Counsel
>> City of Norwalk
>> 125 East Avenue
>> Norwalk, CT 06851
>> General: (203) 854-7750
>> Direct Dial: (203) 854-7295
>> Fax: (203) 854-7901
>> Website: <https://www.norwalkct.gov/>
>> Email: bcandela@norwalkct.gov

>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Ryan Wilson <rtw3@me.com>
>> Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:32 AM
>> To: Candela, Brian <bcandela@norwalkct.gov>
>> Cc: Travers, James <JTravers@norwalkct.gov>; nfrankhanel@norwalkct.gov
>> Subject: Public Comment: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices Public Hearing

>>
>> [You don't often get email from rtw3@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

>>
>> CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

>>
>>
>> Hi Brian,

>>
>> Below please find my public comment on the use of ATESDs in Norwalk.

>>
>> Thanks,
>> Ryan

>>
>> *****

>>
>> I, Ryan Wilson, a 10-year resident of Norwalk, support the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices in our town. As many of you know, a teenager on a bike was seriously injured by a speeding car on Wilson Avenue the Weekend of Easter. And two weeks ago our family dog was hit and killed by a cut-through speeder right in front of our house. In speaking with the Norwalk Police Department, they only have 4 traffic officers for all of Norwalk. In April alone the department wrote more than 160 citations in our district, roughly 25% of the total speeding citations issued in Norwalk. Speeding along Witch Ln, Wilson Ave, and Highland has become a serious safety concern for our community, and I am sure there are other neighborhoods in Norwalk that face similar issues. We must take action immediately to stop

speeding on our residential streets, specifically around young children, and ATESDs present an opportunity to hit speeders right where it hurts: in their pockets. I've read the research and these devices work. Let's augment the great work of our local police by deploying ATESDs on well-known cut-through streets and in high risk areas.

>

Candela, Brian

From: Ryan Wilson <rtw3@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:32 AM
To: Candela, Brian
Cc: Travers, James; nfrankhanel@norwalkct.gov
Subject: Public Comment: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices Public Hearing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

[You don't often get email from rtw3@me.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

Hi Brian,

Below please find my public comment on the use of ATESDs in Norwalk.

Thanks,
Ryan

I, Ryan Wilson, a 10-year resident of Norwalk, support the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices in our town. As many of you know, a teenager on a bike was seriously injured by a speeding car on Wilson Avenue the Weekend of Easter. And two weeks ago our family dog was hit and killed by a cut-through speeder right in front of our house. In speaking with the Norwalk Police Department, they only have 4 traffic officers for all of Norwalk. In April alone the department wrote more than 160 citations in our district, roughly 25% of the total speeding citations issued in Norwalk. Speeding along Witch Ln, Wilson Ave, and Highland has become a serious safety concern for our community, and I am sure there are other neighborhoods in Norwalk that face similar issues. We must take action immediately to stop speeding on our residential streets, specifically around young children, and ATESDs present an opportunity to hit speeders right where it hurts: in their pockets. I've read the research and these devices work. Let's augment the great work of our local police by deploying ATESDs on well-known cut-through streets and in high risk areas.

Candela, Brian

From: Elizabeth Graves <elizabethbgraves@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 4:36 PM
To: Candela, Brian
Subject: safer streets

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

You don't often get email from elizabethbgraves@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: EXTERNAL Email: Don't open links or attachments from untrusted senders

Hi Brian-

I know I missed my window for today, but if I can't get onto the zoom tonight, due to my son's game, I wanted to share this with the committee.

Thank you, Elizabeth Graves

To the City of Norwalk:

Thank you for noting my public comment. As a resident of Rowayton, I want to support any and all efforts by the city to make our streets safer for everyone to travel upon them. Currently, there are areas and streets of great concern, where drivers are consistently speeding on them and using these small roads at cut-throughs to other places. Sadly, we've recently lost dear pets due to speeding vehicles, and children have been seriously injured by vehicles, and that is just what I am personally aware of (there may be more). Clearly, something must be done.

One of the most dangerous streets where I live in Rowayton is Hunt Street to Old Witch Lane. (But there are other areas, too.) This road(s) is essentially a narrow, old carriage road that has little to no shoulders, few sidewalks, and no margin of error for cars or pedestrians to get out of the way. It was not intended or designed to accommodate today's large SUVs, vans, and pickups barreling down its hills and around its many blind turns either. This road was *not* built for speed. Yet there is also no room to really widen it, so the use of automated traffic safety devices would be useful.

One precaution we have already taken: My son and all his friends are prohibited from traveling that street on bikes, and I don't feel comfortable for them to walk along it either: Again, no margin of error. I see kids walk in small groups on this street on their way home from Roton School, and I worry that if just one child steps onto the street at the wrong time and place, it could be catastrophic with a passing (and speeding) car.

Unfortunately, this street is even more dangerous for people who are not familiar with the area and unaware of the narrowness of it, and the twists and turns ahead. Once it transitions and widens slightly to Old Witch, cars often speed up, too. Hence, we need to discourage speeding in every possible way.

I would also like to suggest the city and town start a "Stay Alive Don't Text & Drive" campaign. I would be happy to help with this. Norwalk should be a role model city for this national problem. I live on Rowayton

Avenue, and the number of kids I see on a weekly basis driving small motorbikes and e-bikes down this street while texting (with their heads down, wearing no helmets) is deeply concerning. Aside from the e-bike issue (why...), I fear for their safety. I fear for people around them. It's a symptom to a much larger problem that I see on every street and in every parking lot and every stop light (and even highways), where adults are texting and driving on the road. There should be no tolerance for this. Prevention starts with educating parents and adults and showing kids this behavior is not okay or acceptable will lead to fatalities, which are now often tried as vehicular homicides: This kind of accident is entirely avoidable.

Please get real and serious about the safety of Norwalk streets and the highways that pass through this area.

Thank you kindly for your time and your efforts.

Concerned citizen,

Elizabeth Graves

280 Rowayton Avenue