

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-19

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 70, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, BY AMENDING SECTION 70-10, SCHOOL ZONE SPEED INFRACTIONS; ADOPTING FINDINGS; AUTHORIZING THE PLACEMENT, INSTALLATION, AND OPERATION OF SPEED DETECTION SYSTEMS ON SPECIFIED ROADWAYS MAINTAINED AS SCHOOL ZONES FOR VENICE ELEMENTARY THAT CONSTITUTE A HEIGHTENED RISK; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2023, Chapter 2023-174, Laws of Florida, took effect, which authorizes the use of automated speed detection systems in school zones; and

WHEREAS, a speed detection system is defined at Section 316.003, Florida Statutes, as a "portable or fixed automated system used to detect a motor vehicle's speed using radar or LiDAR and to capture a photograph or video of the rear of a motor vehicle that exceeds the speed limit in force at the time of the violation"; and

WHEREAS, speeding in school zones presents a threat to the health and safety of the public and in particular the children in the City of Venice (hereinafter the "City"); and

WHEREAS, the City passed Ordinance 2025-24 on June 24, 2025, authorizing the installation and utilization of speed detection systems in school zones associated with two schools; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to utilize a speed detection system in school zones associated with an additional school, Venice Elementary, in order to reduce speeding and benefit public safety; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Section 316.008(9), Florida Statutes, the City has held a public hearing on this ordinance to consider traffic data or other evidence supporting the installation and operation of a speed detection system at the school zones for Venice Elementary, and has determined that such school zones constitute a heightened safety risk that warrant additional enforcement measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The above whereas clauses are ratified and confirmed as true and correct.

SECTION 2. Chapter 70, Traffic and Vehicles, Section 70-10, School Zone Speed Infractions, of the Code of Ordinances, City of Venice, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) – (b) No change.

(c) Determination of Heightened Safety Risk. The City Council finds that SDS are authorized for use at the following locations, based upon a review of data and evidence at a public hearing demonstrating that the school zones associated with these schools constitute a heightened safety risk that warrants additional enforcement measures:

(1) Venice High School: 1 Indian Ave, Venice, Florida 34285

(2) Epiphany Cathedral: 316 Sarasota St, Venice, Florida 34285

(3) Venice Elementary School: 150 Miami Ave East, Venice, Florida 34285

(d) – (g) No change.

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. If any part, section, subsection, or other portion of this ordinance or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid for any reason, such part, section, subsection, or other portion, or the prescribed application thereof, shall be severable, and the remaining provisions of this ordinance, and all applications thereof not having been declared void, unconstitutional, or invalid, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its approval and adoption, as provided by law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VENICE, FLORIDA THIS 26TH DAY OF MAY 2026.

First Reading: May 12, 2026

Second Reading: May 26, 2026

Adoption: May 26, 2026

Nick Pachota, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kelly Michaels, MMC, City Clerk

I, Kelly Michaels, MMC, City Clerk of the City of Venice, Florida, a municipal corporation in Sarasota County, Florida, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full and complete, true and correct copy of an Ordinance duly adopted by the City of Venice Council, a meeting thereof duly convened and held on the 26th day of May 2026, a quorum being present.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said City this 26th day of May 2026.

Kelly Michaels, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Kelly Fernandez, City Attorney