



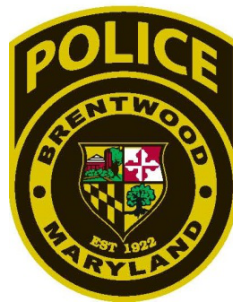
Chief of Police

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Robert Althoff

## **Brentwood Police Department**

February 27, 2020

House Environment and Transportation Committee  
State of Maryland  
House Bill 1180

Vehicle Laws – Speed Monitoring Systems – Child  
Care Center

Good Afternoon / Evening Chairman Barve, Vice  
Chair Stein and members of the Environment and  
Transportation Committee.

My Name is Robert Althoff and I am the Chief of  
Police for the Town of Brentwood, which is a  
municipality in Prince George's County. I would like

to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak of my support on HB 1180.

The reason for my support is due to the reducing the speeds of motor vehicles within childcare centers areas located in the Town of Brentwood. There is one child care and early learning development center known as Agape Early Childhood Learning Development Center, which is located at 4318 Rhode Island Ave Brentwood MD. This center has been approved and has received a license from the State of Maryland Department of Education, Office of Child Care to operate as a Child Development Program. Currently the Center has 80 children participating in their program from the ages of 6 weeks to 12 years of age. This facility is open throughout the year.

The Brentwood Police Department is a small police agency, consisting of 4 officers, myself as Chief of Police, Sergeant and two patrol officers. At the present time we have no means or available manpower to monitor speeds or conduct traffic speed enforcement at the 4300 Block of Rhode Island. The Prince George's County Police has conducted speed enforcement in the past and



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informed me that the average speed during slow times is 50 to 55 miles per hour in a posted 30 mile per hour zone. It was also noted that several accidents that occurred in this area required motorists to be transported to the hospital.

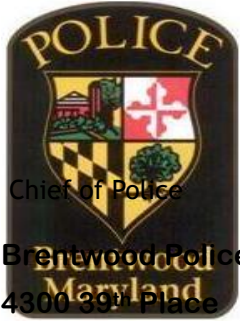
While many of the positive effects of are anecdotal, it can't be denied that the awareness that there might be speed monitoring devices on any given roadway tracking speed tends to affect the psychology of many drivers. Motorists who would otherwise not be cautious are thinking twice about speeding, especially in urban areas and school zones. It is our hope with approving HB 1180 that once a driver is aware that a speed monitoring device is installed in a certain area, they tend to behave themselves and drive the speed limit in said

area. It is through existing research for speed cameras and WAZE consistently shows that speed cameras are an effective intervention in reducing road traffic collisions and related casualties, possibly saving young children's lives.

In closing I would like to express my sincere support for House Bill 1180 which is sponsored by Delegate Fisher and Delegate Shetty for placement of speed monitoring devices in the areas of child care centers.

I would like to thank the committee for taking the time on hearing this bill and my supportive testimony relating to it.

I maybe by myself testifying on this bill but I have heard the concerns of citizens within in my jurisdiction that Rhode Island Ave is described as a heavily traveled racetrack, especially near a Child Care Center. Please don't let this bill die because I am the only one here today, there are others that would like to be here today but have events to participate in. I apologize for that. But this bill makes good sense to be supportive of and I hope you feel the same.



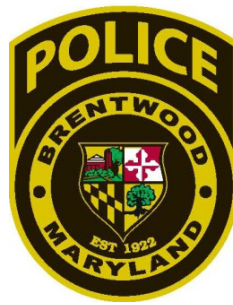
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Thank you and have a great day.