

John T. Carroll, Jr.

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March 26, 2024

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings

Bill: HB 282 - Speed Monitoring Systems - Agencies - Statements and Certificates of Violations

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Town of Galena supports House Bill 282 as it would provide our municipal government with the option to use a technician to review speed camera images and sign the citations. As a municipality without a police department, we would consider installing speed cameras in our jurisdiction.

The Town of Galena's 2 main thoroughfares (Main and Cross Streets) are State Routes 213 and 313, both of which are heavily trafficked by speeding tractor trailers and dump trucks avoiding toll roads along US Route 301 into neighboring Delaware. Our town is also the home of Galena Elementary School, located on State Route 313 (S. Main St.) mentioned above. The high levels of commercial truck traffic speeding through our town not only causes a quality-of-life issue, but a public safety issue for our youngest residents attending grades Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade from all of Northern Kent County.

As the Town of Galena is a small rural community with just under 700 residents, we are unable to provide our own police department and therefore we contract policing services with the Kent County Sheriff's Office. While the sheriff's office provides excellent service to our residents to the best of their ability, they would not have the staffing capacity to review traffic camera footage if we were to install a traffic camera in our municipality. As well, with limited staffing, our Sheriff's Department, and the MD State Highway Patrol, cannot do constant traffic enforcement to slow our speeding truck traffic through Town. The Mayor and Council have discussed traffic calming and speeding issues many times over the last 2 decades, with which, traffic camera installations having been requested by our residents year after year, though the human capital capacity simply does not exist to institute such safety measures.

With the passage of this bill our Town, as well as many other rural small communities, would be able to ensure safe speeds are enforced and improve the quality of life of the Marylanders we represent. For these reasons the Town of Galena respectfully requests that the committee provide House Bill 282 with a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Mayor John Carroll

Town of Galena

Maryland Municipal League – Board President