

  
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 2583 (BERMAN), THE SAFER SCHOOL ZONE ACT, THAT WOULD INCREASE SAFETY IN SCHOOL ZONES BY REDUCING SPEED LIMITS AND USING CLEARER TIME FRAMES FOR WHEN SUCH LOWER SPEED LIMITS ARE IN EFFECT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland holds public safety in the highest regard; and

**WHEREAS**, traffic violence has increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic nationwide, and Oakland is experiencing this trend as well; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Oakland Street report found that 36 people were killed by traffic violence, up from 26 in 2019<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, schools are considered vulnerable populations when OakDOT investigates an area for traffic improvements and given higher priority due to their nature of high pedestrian traffic; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that reducing speed limits in school zones can bring significant safety benefits, decreasing fatal and injury crashes by 45% as the result of a 20km reduction in speed limits<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, California is just one of 8 states with a school zone speed limit greater than 20mph; and

**WHEREAS**, the risk of severe injury from a crash at 23mph as opposed to 16mph is 250% greater; and

**WHEREAS**, California currently uses the vague and confusing language of “when children are present,” requiring drivers to make a snap decision if school zone speed limits currently apply; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oakland.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=11bb359a-9bbe-4939-a712-4ee6f86d456a.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjce-2018-0060>

**WHEREAS**, a majority of other states use a set time frame as to when school zone speed limits apply, making it easier for drivers to understand when school zone speed limits apply and comply with the law; and

**WHEREAS**, AB 2583 would increase safety in school zones through lower speed limits, clearer timeframes when the lower speed limits would be in effect, and improved planning practices; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the City of Oakland supports the passage of AB 2583 in the California legislature; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council directs the City Administrator or his designee to immediately distribute this Resolution upon its adoption to Governor Gavin Newsom and State Assemblymember Berman.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND  
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
ASHA REED  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California