


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

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 in 2022, up from 26 in 2019¹; 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 per hour reduction in speed limits²; 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

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

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

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

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