

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and protection of the public is a principal reason why municipalities are established and exist; and,

WHEREAS, municipal police and the Pennsylvania State Police are statutorily authorized to protect the public, primarily through the enforcement of the Crimes Code and Motor Vehicle Code; and,

WHEREAS, all of the tools of law enforcement available to the Pennsylvania State Police are also available to municipal police, with one notable exception, that being effective tools to monitor vehicle speeds; and,

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is the only state in the U.S. that gives its municipal police a law enforcement mandate and then prohibits them from using common and effective pieces of speed-timing equipment that the Pennsylvania State Police are permitted to use; and,

WHEREAS, the inability of municipal police to use effective speed timing tools has resulted in uneven enforcement of the maximum speed laws across Pennsylvania, as well as contributed to Pennsylvania's distinction as the state with the 3rd highest number of speed-related vehicle fatalities and the 2nd highest percentage of speed-related vehicle fatalities in the country; and,

WHEREAS, the ability for Pittsburgh Bureau of Police officers to employ speed-timing equipment to aid in enforcing maximum speed laws could reduce speed-related accidents and fatalities and make all of our neighborhoods safer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh calls upon the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania to support Senate Bill 1340 and House Bill 1272 which would enable all municipal police to use the same motor vehicle speed-timing equipment as the Pennsylvania State Police.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Will of Council shall be circulated to all members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Sponsored by Councilman Dan Gilman and Councilman R. Daniel Lavelle

Co-sponsored by Council President Bruce Kraus, Councilmembers Deb Gross, Darlene M. Harris, Theresa Kail-Smith, Natalia Rudiak, Corey O'Connor, and Rev. Ricky V. Burgess

Bruce Kraus
President of Council

Attest: Mary Beth Doheny
Clerk of Council

In Council, June 24, 2014