

To: The Mayor and Members of Council, City of Vaughan

Sept 15, 2025

Re: THE CITY'S AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Today I am here to enthusiastically support the reinstatement, and expansion, of the speed camera program in Vaughan. And this is for one simple reason – they work.

As reported in the Globe and Mail, a study by the Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto Metropolitan University found that the number of speeders dropped by half after cameras were installed. In addition, the number going more than 20 KPH over the posted limit dropped by 87 percent. Let's put that in perspective – if the posted limit is 40 KPH, such as around schools, data shows that a pedestrian has a survival rate of around 60% if hit – add 20 KPH and there is zero chance of survival.

Drivers in Vaughan realize that there are fewer police radar traps than in the past, likely due to the high cost of stationing an officer exclusively for catching speeders. So, knowing that there will likely be no consequence, they ignore posted speed limits. This, coupled with the ridiculously powerful and oversized vehicles we insist on driving, makes our roads unsafe for drivers and pedestrians alike. And heaven help the hapless kids cycling to school, "protected" by a nice painted line denoting a bike lane!

Speed cameras are not a cash grab. I am sure that everyone on Council would be thrilled if there were zero fines issued. And they are not entrapment, as is sometimes the case with a stealthy radar trap. Life is busy, and I know people have a lot going on. However, signs are numerous, and there was lots of warning before the camera were installed. They weren't a surprise. It's pretty simple - don't want a fine? Don't speed!

Council has, for many years, tried various traffic calming measures throughout the city, with varied success. Lowering the posted speed limits is a favourite, but, as mentioned before, is meaningless without enforcement. Nice big speed bumps are certainly an effective deterrent – your car will be severely damaged if you speed – but EMS and Fire are hampered as well; not good. Radar traps are effective while in place, but speeding returns as soon as the police leave. In addition, we need our limited police resources on higher priority crime prevention tasks.

I would urge Council to ignore the rants coming out of Queens Park on this, and have the courage to restore the program. Our children deserve no less.

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**C22.**

**Communication**

**Sp. CW – September 15, 2025**

**Item No. 1**