Town Council
Regular Meeting
Agenda Item 5.a.

Agenda Item: **Resolution 26-G-46 to approve an additional $200 fine for a speeding zone on Dranesville Road between Herndon Parkway and Park Avenue in the Town of Herndon, Virginia, pursuant to Code of Virginia §46.2-878.2 and Herndon Town Code Sec. 42-4(b) (Compliance with chapter; penalty for violation of chapter)**

Meeting Date: August 25, 2026

Category: Public Hearings

Prepared by: Mike Shindledecker, Transportation Engineer

Description:
This resolution approves the establishment of a higher fine zone for speeding along Dranesville Road between Herndon Parkway to the north and Park Avenue to the South. This higher fine zone is in response to community concerns and a measured history of vehicular speeding in excess of the posted 25 mph speed limit. Fines for speeding at this location would consist of $200 in addition to any other fine allowable by law. No portion of this additional $200 fine can be suspended unless the court orders 20 hours of community service.

Background/Timing Impact:
The segment of Dranesville Road between Park Avenue and Herndon Parkway demonstrates a consistent history of vehicular operating speeds in excess of the posted 25 mph speed limit. Traffic speed data collected by the Department of Public Works for the period of October 20 through October 24, 2025, documented 85th percentile speeds of 35 miles per hour in both the northbound and southbound directions on Dranesville Road between 3rd Street and Worchester Street. The Town of Herndon's *Traffic Calming and Crosswalk Standards* identify an 85th percentile speed that exceeds the posted speed limit by 10 mph as an indicator that traffic calming may be appropriate.

Several traffic calming strategies have been employed over the past few years, including road reconfiguration, additional safety signage, and speed feedback signs. Given the segment's location between Herndon Elementary School and Herndon High School, the provision of bicycle lanes in either direction, frequent pedestrian use, the presence of bus stops, and limited effectiveness of previous traffic calming strategies, the town's Traffic Engineering Improvement Committee (TEIC) recommends the use of stronger enforcement penalties for this location. This action is supported by TEIC members, including town staff from the departments of Community Development, Police, and Public Works.

The Herndon Town Council is authorized under Code of Virginia §46.2-878.2 to impose an additional $200 fine for speeding in a residence district when appropriately placed signs display the maximum speed limit and the penalty for violations. Town Code Sec. 42-4 provides that the Town Council may establish increased penalty zones for certain traffic violations by resolution adopted after a public hearing.

If approved, the higher fine zone would become effective immediately. The higher fine zone would not become enforceable until appropriate signage is installed. Department of Public Works staff will order the appropriate signage following adoption and install when equipment is available. Following the placement of signage, Herndon Police will conduct an educational enforcement campaign for approximately one month after which regular enforcement will resume.

Strategic Focus Area:
Secure and Interconnected Community

Fiscal Impact:
N/A

Legal Impact:
This resolution enables the punishment of traffic speeding infractions with a fine of $200 in addition to other penalties provided by law. Furthermore, no portion of the fine shall be suspended unless the court orders 20 hours of community service. The additional $200 fine cannot be imposed until appropriately placed signs displaying the maximum speed limit and the additional penalty for violations have been installed.

Staff Recommendation/Next Steps:
Staff recommends approval of the resolution as proposed.

Attachments:
1. Resolution (Proposed)
2. Dranesville Traffic Calming Memo
3. Presentation
4. Legal Advertisement