

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Small and Members of Council

From: Dwayne Pike, Chief of Police / Traffic Authority

Date: March 17, 2025

Subject: Speeding in School Zones – Strategic Priorities - “Points to Capture”

Road safety and the safety of our children is an important priority for the Police Department, especially in regard to the areas surrounding schools. In September 2012, in an effort to enhance safety for children and motorists in the areas surrounding schools, school zones were introduced.

School zones only exist in areas near schools and impact the speed limits for motorists when there are children present. This is in effect 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The speed limit drops from 50 kph to 30 kph in these areas when a child is within 30m of the roadway, within the school zone. If a child is not within 30m of the roadway, the decreased speed limit does not apply. School zones exist in several areas around town in relation to our schools: Amherst Regional High School, EB Chandler Junior High, Spring Street Academy and West Highlands.

During 2024, our members conducted several focused enforcement periods in which our members concentrated on speeding infractions, with many members monitoring school zone areas, especially during the start of the school year. In April of 2024, our focused enforcement initiative was speeding and 16 speeding tickets were written, but none in relation to speeding in a school zone. One member did indicate that on occasion, he adjusted issued tickets to reflect a regular speeding charge as a ‘break’ to the offender, but was unable to recall if this was done during this initiative. In total for 2024, our members wrote 29 speeding tickets and 28 warnings. All tickets, with the exception of one, were for exceeding the speed limit between 1-15kph. There were also three complaints concerning the issue of speeding in school zones and as a result, our members monitored the areas, but noted no issues, with the fastest noted speed being 38kph. During these times, we did issue 2 violations, but these were not for speeding. One member indicated that reported speeds often seem to be higher than they actually are as police radar monitoring appears to indicate there are no significant issues.

Our efforts will continue to focus on keeping our children safe, not only in school zones, but in other areas including crosswalks. This will be done by continuing to spread education and information through various mediums (social media, in person etc) and through active enforcement of the applicable sections of the Motor Vehicle Act. In the event of specific complaints about speeding in school zones, or during focused enforcement initiatives, we will ensure that additional attention is given to this concern and the areas are monitored and information is shared via the various mediums available.