

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

September 19, 2023

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**SUBJECT: Traffic Enforcement Strategies**

This budget response provides details about how the Fort Worth Police Department will use existing resources to address traffic enforcement throughout the city.

The City of Fort Worth has over 8,100 lane-miles of streets for vehicular traffic. Due to the size of the city, many of these streets are multi-lane and straight for considerable distances. Those streets have experienced an increase in vehicular speeds along with reckless driving. One challenge we experience involves the combination of compliance with posted speed limits when officers are in the area and a disregard for speed limits when there is minimal officer visibility. Compliance and non-compliance can occur in a matter of minutes of an officer's arrival or departure from the area.

Although hiring more traffic officers would help address this problem, our current staffing challenges would not allow any additional personnel to be deployed any more quickly without diminishing our patrol staffing. We have outlined our staffing priorities in the recommended FY2024 budget and are working to fill our current vacancies as quickly as possible. We are at the point where moving resources to one area generally entails taking away from another.

Nevertheless, the Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit is assigned to address speeding and traffic-related concerns across the city. They have the ability to move around and conduct details as needed. We have officers on motorcycles and in patrol vehicles that can address speeding and reckless driving concerns. Additionally, our neighborhood patrol officers are able to address some of these concerns as well.

In order to reduce speeding in residential neighborhoods, there are several tactics that can be used with our existing resources. We can increase our police presence with our motorcycle officers or neighborhood patrol officers in areas that have large numbers of speeding complaints and also in areas with a higher accident rate. We can use speed trailers intermittently or temporarily park an unoccupied patrol car in the area to deter the behavior.

As we work toward filling our vacant positions, we need help from City Council members and ordinary residents in identifying the locations that need to be addressed most urgently. Although we cannot be at these locations every day, being able to list and prioritize certain locations will create efficiencies with our existing resources to address the speeding and hazardous driving on our streets.

If you have questions concerning this information, please contact Executive Assistant Police Chief Robert Aldredge at 817-392-4131.

David Cooke
City Manager