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PRESS RELEASE—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Device Program

Dear East Haddam Residents,

The Board of Selectmen moved to schedule a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 5 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm to discuss adopting an ordinance for use of Automated Traffic Enforcement Speed Devices here in East Haddam. The Connecticut Department of Transportation is partnering with towns and cities all over Connecticut to empower municipalities to install the devices to improve public safety, change driver behavior and save lives.

To participate in the program, we are required to prepare a plan, create an ordinance, hold a public hearing and submit the final plan to CT DOT for approval prior to the use of an automated traffic enforcement safety device. The Board of Selectmen have been researching the program since January of 2024. In March 2025, we held a vote to move it forward and it was a 2-1 vote against moving the ordinance forward because there were more questions and concerns by the board members. We continued to research and vet the program and had sessions with the East Haddam Police, the camera vendor, the billing service and other town leaders and police to learn more. The program's original contract had been vetted with the town attorney, but the contract terms have now changed so the new contract is being vetted again with the town attorney.

The program works as follows: If the speed device detects a violation of a municipal traffic ordinance, a citation is automatically issued. The citation is mailed to the vehicle owner's address within 30 days after the owner 's address is confirmed by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. If a violation occurs within the first 30 days that the enforcement device is working, the citation will result in a warning. After the enforcement device has been working for 30 days, the citation fine cannot exceed $50 for the first offense and $75 for each additional offence. A fee up to $15 can be charged for electronic processing of a payment for the fine. $13.50 of the processing is payment to the camera and bill processer as their fee per citation. If a citation remains unpaid, our fee is waived. There are no upfront costs for the cameras and only the fees collected are paying for the program. The municipal citation does not get reported to DMV or insurance companies. There is an appeal process outlined on the mailed citation.

We are looking forward to the Public Hearing where we will have DACRON, the camera processor, East Haddam Police and the Town of Washington's First Selectman Jim Britton to discuss how their program roll out was and answer any questions posed by the public.

Irene M. Haines
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