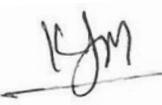




Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E.
City Engineer

Date: January 24, 2018 

TO: Kevin J. Murphy, City Manager

VIA: Tom Bellegarde, Assistant City Manager/DPW Commissioner

FROM: Nicolás H. Bosonetto, P.E., City Engineer

SUBJECT: 9/26/17 Mayor Kennedy – Request City Manager instruct the Proper Department To Look Into The Installation Of Speed Limit And/Or ‘Slow Children at Play’ Signs on School Street and Laurel Street.

Currently the speed limit on School and Laurel Streets is set at 30 MPH by statute due to their designation as a thickly settled area having dwellings less than 200 feet apart.¹

Per MGL c. 90 § 18 speed limit signs are not allowed to be posted for statutory speed limits. Speed limit signs are only allowed to be used where the statutory speed limit is trumped by a regulatory speed limit. Regulatory speed limits can only be set after a traffic study shows 85% of drivers are traveling at 5 MPH or faster than the statutory limit.

However, the City Council has the authority to decrease the statutory speed limits in thickly settled or business districts from 30 MPH to 25 MPH per Section 193 and 194 of the Municipal Modernization Act. Speed limits signs showing the reduced 25 MPH could then be posted.

The city does not have or install ‘Slow Children at Play’ signs because a) they are non-enforceable and b) it would become cost prohibitive to place these types of signs in every neighborhood.

¹ See definition in MGL Part I, Title XIV, Chapter 90, Section 1 “the territory contiguous to any way which is built up with structures devoted to business, or the territory contiguous to any way where dwelling houses are situated at such distances as will average less than two hundred feet between them for a distance of a quarter of a mile or over.”