



## NEWS RELEASE

## City of South Fulton Government

### Department of Communications and External Affairs

#### **Media Contact:**

Gary Leftwich, Director of Communications and External Affairs

470-825-1950 (cell) - [gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov](mailto:gary.leftwich@cityofsouthfultonga.gov)

5440 Fulton Industrial Boulevard, SW Atlanta, GA 30336

[www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov](http://www.cityofsouthfultonga.gov)

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### **South Fulton Installs School Zone Safety Cameras at Wolf Creek Elementary**

(City of South Fulton, GA – April 27, 2021) – The City of South Fulton is adding another school to its Ren'gia Major School Zone Safety Program, which already has helped cut speeding cases by 82 percent in areas surrounding schools within the city.

Crews recently completed installation of automated speed-detection cameras and accompanying signs at Wolf Creek Elementary on Derrick Road. The city will offer a 30-day warning period starting April 27 and ending the last day of school, May 26. No warnings or citations will be issued during the summer.

The city will offer a second, weeklong warning period starting on the first day of school, Aug. 9. Following that period, the cameras will issue tickets starting Aug. 16.

“Extending the program to include Wolf Creek Elementary means students at one more school will be safer,” said Councilwoman Helen Zenobia Willis, who sponsored legislation that created the program. “That takes us one step closer to achieving our ultimate goal for the program – ensuring that no other family has to suffer the tragedy of losing a child.”

Launched in October 2019, the initiative is named for an 11-year-old Sandtown Middle School student who was killed in February 2018 when a speeding vehicle struck the car in which she was riding in front of the school. City officials partnered with Blue Line Solutions to manage the program.

Dormant for much of last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school zone initiative became operative again in September in a staggered rollout across the zones. In corresponding 30-day grace periods, violators received warning citations. Actual tickets, carrying fines of \$100 for first offenses and \$150 for subsequent violations, were issued following those warning periods.

According to data gathered by Blue Line Solutions, the number drivers cited for speeding plunged from 38,315 to 6,917 – a drop of 82 percent across the school zones. Eight of the 10 active zones saw drops of at least 75 percent.

Also during the reporting period, overall traffic through the school zones declined by 18 percent – or just over 25,000 vehicles.

Following Georgia law, the cameras monitor speeds and issue citations during the regular school day on weekdays. For an hour before and after students arrive at and leave school, a speed limit of 25 mph is in effect in all school zones. Flashing lights alert drivers to those times.

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During the rest of the day, drivers are required to follow posted speed limits, which vary among the school zones.

“If the lights are flashing, keep your speed at 25 mph or under,” said Police Chief Keith Meadows. “At all other times, follow the posted limits. To put it simply, just slow down.”

Meadows pointed out that while the system does not issue citations outside of school hours, motorists are subject to traffic stops by patrol officers. In addition, police officials use data gathered by the cameras 24 hours a day to determine where extra patrols are needed.

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