



# Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

September 19, 2024

Ms. Stephanie Lynch  
Council Member, 5th District  
900 E. Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[Stephanie.Lynch@rva.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Lynch@rva.gov)

Re: Request for speed camera on Belvidere in Oregon Hill

Dear Councilmember Lynch,

At our August 27, 2024 meeting, the neighborhood association voted nearly unanimously (one abstention) to ask you to work towards installing a speed camera on Belvidere at Holly St, as allowed under Virginia's new definition of a "high-risk intersection segment" pursuant to Va Code § 46.2-882.1. This definition reads 'For the purposes of this section: "High-risk intersection segment" means any highway or portion thereof located not more than 1,000 feet from the limits of the property of a school that is part of or adjacent to an intersection containing a marked crosswalk that is identified in the manner provided in this section as one in which a traffic fatality has occurred since January 1, 2014.'

The intersection at issue, within 1,000' of Open High school, meets the definitional standards. As you know, there was a pedestrian fatality there in 2021.

The number of crashes at the neighborhood's perimeter with Belvidere is excessive—I am aware of at least four in the past week, one just last night. Installing a speed camera could save the city considerable revenue in responding to these crashes, as well as gaining revenue from ticketing speeding drivers—in addition to keeping neighbors and Open High students safe, and preventing another tragedy.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

Valerie L'Herrou, President  
Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

CC: Ms. Amy Robins, Council Liaison, 5<sup>th</sup> District



**SUPPORTING THE MODIFICATION OF SECTION 27-131 TO DIRECT SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM PROCEEDS TOWARDS THE VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN SPECIAL FUND**

**WHEREAS**, the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission was established in 1966 to develop and oversee a comprehensive highway safety program for the City of Richmond, conducting quarterly reviews to assess the program’s operations and outcomes;

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond City Council remains committed to supporting the Commission’s vital efforts, recognizing the importance of maintaining and enhancing transportation safety for all residents;

**WHEREAS**, in pursuit of a safer Richmond, the City Council has adopted a Vision Zero approach, with the goal of eliminating all traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by the year 2030;

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly and the Governor of Virginia enacted legislation allowing for the implementation of photo speed enforcement cameras for red light running violations;

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond City Council adopted Section 27-131 to direct proceeds from the Safety Camera Program to the Vision Zero Action Plan Special Fund to support the program and to implement actions found in the Vision Zero Action Plan created and monitored by the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission and implemented by the Vision Zero Task Force;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond, in collaboration with its local, state, regional, and non-profit partners, is well-positioned to implement the Vision Zero Action Plan using proven and innovative countermeasures, such as the Safety Camera Program to enforce red light running violations;

**WHEREAS**, effective Vision Zero programs prioritize a range of strategies, including cost-efficient systemic engineering solutions, high-visibility enforcement measures, public communication, education, advocacy, and policy initiatives to create lasting behavioral change;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission plays a critical role in overseeing the implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan, ensuring that the built environment is redesigned to promote safe speeds and shift the transportation safety culture in the City of Richmond;

**WHEREAS**, the Vision Zero Task Force was established to drive forward the Vision Zero Action Plan, actively seeking resources to support a safe speeds approach and foster a cultural shift in traffic safety;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission strongly supports and encourages Richmond City Council to add the following language to section 27-131

“Civil penalties collected under this section resulting from a summons issued by a City police officer shall be paid to the City and placed in a special fund called the Vision Zero Action Plan Fund to be applied to first sustaining the photo enforcement program established pursuant to this section and second implementing the strategies set forth in any Vision Zero Action Plan adopted by the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.”



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Commission recommends that the Richmond City Council allocate any additional resources necessary to ensure the successful demonstration and implementation of these Vision Zero strategies, reinforcing the City’s commitment to creating safer streets for all.



## **SUPPORTING THE USE OF PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS IN HIGH-RISK INTERSECTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF RICHMOND**

**WHEREAS**, the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission was established in 1966 to develop and oversee a comprehensive highway safety program for the City of Richmond, conducting quarterly reviews to assess the program's operations and outcomes;

**WHEREAS**, the Richmond City Council remains committed to supporting the Commission's vital efforts, recognizing the importance of maintaining and enhancing transportation safety for all residents;

**WHEREAS**, in pursuit of a safer Richmond, the City Council has adopted a Vision Zero approach, with the goal of eliminating all traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by the year 2030;

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly and the Governor of Virginia recently enacted legislation allowing for the implementation of photo speed enforcement cameras in high-risk intersection segments to curb speeding and modify driver behavior, specifically in areas where at least one fatality has occurred since 2014 within 1,000 feet of a school property;

**WHEREAS**, a "High-Risk Intersection Segment" is defined under § 46.2-882.1 of the Code of Virginia as any highway or portion thereof located within 1,000 feet of a school property and adjacent to an intersection containing a marked crosswalk, where a traffic fatality has occurred since January 1, 2014;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond, in collaboration with its local, state, regional, and non-profit partners, is well-positioned to develop, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive speed management program using proven and innovative countermeasures, such as photo speed enforcement cameras at high-risk intersection segments;

**WHEREAS**, effective speed management programs prioritize a range of strategies, including cost-efficient systemic engineering solutions, high-visibility enforcement measures, public communication, education, advocacy, and policy initiatives to create lasting behavioral change;

**WHEREAS**, the Commission plays a critical role in overseeing the implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan, ensuring that the built environment is redesigned to promote safe speeds and shift the transportation safety culture in the City of Richmond;

**WHEREAS**, the Vision Zero Task Force was established to drive forward the Vision Zero Action Plan, actively seeking resources to support a safe speeds approach and foster a cultural shift in traffic safety;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond and its partners have participated in key national initiatives, including the FHWA Vision Zero National Peer Exchange (2018), the National Speed Management Summit (2019) in Ruckersville, VA, and the FHWA Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP) National Peer Exchange (2019), contributing to a national movement for safe speeds;



**WHEREAS**, the City of Richmond has showcased its pedestrian safety and speed management initiatives on platforms such as the FHWA STEP/Vision Zero Network Webinar (2020), furthering its role as a leader in promoting comprehensive speed management solutions;

**WHEREAS**, Richmond has hosted three Speed Management Symposiums to engage the public and key stakeholders, sharing insights into what a comprehensive speed management approach entails and how it can be effectively implemented in urban environments;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission strongly supports the use of photo speed enforcement cameras to enforce speed limits at high-risk intersection segments within the City of Richmond, particularly along the High Injury Street Network, where a disproportionate number of traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries occur;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission recommends that the Richmond City Council allocate any additional resources necessary to ensure the successful demonstration and implementation of these comprehensive speed management strategies, reinforcing the City's commitment to creating safer streets for all.

**From:** [Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office; Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#)  
**Subject:** For 5/27 Mtg: SUPPORT for speed monitor device on Belvidere  
**Date:** Sunday, May 25, 2025 5:12:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [OHNA Letter Speed Camera May 2025.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms Reid,  
I trust you had a relaxing and safe Memorial Day.

Attached is a letter from our neighborhood association to City Council, expressing our support for [Res. No. 2024-R041](#), and requesting this important safety resolution not be stricken.

Thank you,  
Valerie L'Herrou, President, Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

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**Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association**

Valerie L'Herrou, President  
Bryan Clark Green, Co-Vice President  
Jennifer Hancock, Co-Vice President  
Susan Hill, Co-Vice President  
Harrison Moenich, Co-Vice-President  
David Shannon, Co-Vice President  
Scott Racette, Secretary  
John Bolecek, Treasurer  
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# Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

May 25, 2025

To: Candice D. Reid, Clerk  
Richmond City Council  
Councillor Stephanie Lynch, 5th District  
900 E. Broad St.  
Richmond, VA 23219

*Re: Continued support for speed monitoring device on Belvidere in Oregon Hill*

Dear Members of City Council and Councillor Lynch:

I write in support of resolution Res. No. 2024-R041, to install a speed monitoring device on Belvidere at Holly St, pursuant to Virginia's definition of a "high-risk intersection segment" under Va Code § 46.2-882.1. We requested Councillor Lynch to submit this resolution in September 2024, following a vote of our membership in support of requesting such a camera. We request this resolution not be stricken.

The stretch of Belvidere south of Cary Street, across the James River to Riverside Drive, is highly dangerous. This particular intersection, within 1,000' of Open High School, meets the definitional standards of a high-risk intersection segment.

The number of crashes at our neighborhood's perimeter with Belvidere is excessive. Almost daily, there is at least one crash along this stretch of this highly dangerous corridor.

Installing a speed camera could significantly slow traffic, and save the city considerable revenue in responding to these crashes, in addition to keeping neighbors and students crossing Belvidere from Open High (which students do on a daily basis) safe. It is imperative that we prevent another tragedy.

While other traffic calming measures may be contemplated or in the works, they will take considerably more time to implement and will not bring accountability to those drivers who are accustomed to speeding on this corridor. Thank you for your consideration of and attention to this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Valerie L'Herrou".

Valerie L'Herrou, President  
Oregon Hill Neighborhood Association

*CC: Ms. Amy Robins, Council Liaison, 5th District*

**From:** [Ruth Twiggs](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Stephanie Lynch](#); [Stephanie Lynch](#)  
**Subject:** 46-2-882.1/Council Meeting 5/27  
**Date:** Monday, May 26, 2025 3:45:56 PM

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I am writing to stress how important it is to keep the speed camera located on Belvidere at Holly St. This was put in place because of the closeness to Open High School & the excessive speed on Belvidere.

I live on Pine St in Oregon

Hill . We can hear the cars revving up to take off to a dangerous speed across the Lee Bridge onto Cowardin. This is scary especially if you're walking on Belvidere' s sidewalk.

I don't know how there hasn't been a tragic accident.

It was mentioned that the speed camera might be removed & included in future plans for Belvidere. PLEASE don't remove it now. We desperately need MORE traffic control not less While "future plans" could be fine EXCEPT it could take months or years. This is very dangerous.

I am asking that the speed camera on Belvidere at Holly St remain in place.

Thank you  
Ruth Twiggs  
329 1/2 S Pine St



**From:** [Momin Khan](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Robins, Amy E. - City Council Office](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#)  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council Meeting 5/27/2025 RES 2024-R041 (speed cameras)  
**Date:** Monday, May 26, 2025 6:27:31 PM

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Hello council, I am a relatively new resident of Oregon Hill with my wife and daughter. I am writing in regards to RES 2024-R041, with one question of clarification, and one statement of support.

Question for clarification of "striking the item": The LUHT Committee voted to strike the item because they gathered all the necessary info in their study. Does striking this item mean that the LUHT Committee and City Council will not discuss installing the speed cameras anymore? I don't see another resolution to discuss installation, or any next steps. The resolution does state "to express support for the study **and installation**", so completing the study is not enough, you must also support installation.

Statement of support: I strongly commend the council and anyone involved in getting the pedestrian signalized crosswalk installed at the Holly/Belvidere intersection, as well as the traffic light at Cumberland/Lauren, they are truly amazing. It is crucial that we continue that momentum towards vision zero by installing speed cameras at these high-risk intersections, by any means necessary. The fact that HIRS speed ticket money goes to the state is completely unreasonable, and I ask that the council push for new state legislation that gives that money to municipalities instead. It's absurd that the cameras, which would result in net profit overall, are impossible to fund due to the legislation. In the short term, I would ask that the council find alternate up-front funding for the traffic cameras, potentially from a VHSIP grant since they are the ones that currently get the money. If the full \$900,000 for all 6 intersections is not possible, then I implore you to still consider funding cameras at Holly/Belvidere, since it was the main intersection that caused this issue to be introduced to the council, on behalf of Oregon Hill residents.

Thanks,  
Momin

**From:** [Ruth Twiggs](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Re: 46-2-882.1/Council Meeting 5/27  
**Date:** Monday, May 26, 2025 7:27:33 PM

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I mistakenly said there is presently said there was a speed camera at Belvidere & Holly St. I thought it had been installed.

However, the speed on Belvidere is dangerous.

Thank you

Ruth Twiggs

On Mon, May 26, 2025, 3:45 PM Ruth Twiggs <[rtwiggs329@gmail.com](mailto:rtwiggs329@gmail.com)> wrote:

I am writing to stress how important it is to keep the speed camera located on Belvidere at Holly St. This was put in place because of the closeness to Open High School & the excessive speed on Belvidere.

I live on Pine St in Oregon

Hill . We can hear the cars revving up to take off to a dangerous speed across the Lee Bridge onto Cowardin. This is scary especially if you're walking on Belvidere's sidewalk. I don't know how there hasn't been a tragic accident.

It was mentioned that the speed camera might be removed & included in future plans for Belvidere. PLEASE don't remove it now. We desperately need MORE traffic control not less

While "future plans" could be fine EXCEPT it could take months or years. This is very dangerous.

I am asking that the speed camera on Belvidere at Holly St remain in place.

Thank you

Ruth Twiggs

329 1/2 S Pine St