

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS
RESOLUTION 42-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS ADOPTING A SPEED HUMP POLICY AND PROVIDING CRITERIA FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SPEED HUMPS ON MUNICIPAL ROADS WITHIN THE TOWN; AND CREATING AN APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS FOR SPEED HUMP INSTALLATION; AND GENERALLY RELATING TO TRAFFIC CALMING AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Introduced By: Mayor Calvin Washington

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 33-43 of the Town Charter, the Town shall have control of all public ways in the Town except such as may be under the jurisdiction of the State Roads Commission of Maryland or Prince George's County, and subject to the laws of the State of Maryland and said Charter, the Town may do whatever it deems necessary to establish, operate, and maintain in good condition the public ways of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of Maryland has opined that a municipality would be acting well within its grant of authority if it determined that a speed bump [or hump] were necessary to achieve the objective of preserving peace and good order, and to secure persons and property from danger and destruction on a public thoroughfare under its jurisdiction that is, to protect the residents of a residential street against the danger of speeding vehicles (71 Op. Atty Gen. Md. 400 (1986)); and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General of Maryland has cautioned that any municipality considering the installation of speed bumps [or humps] to be aware of the potential risks involved and that speed bumps should be installed only after careful engineering study and should be used only where the potential safety hazard from their use is low and along lightly travelled, low speed thoroughfares, such as those in residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Forest Heights receives various complaints from its residents regarding vehicular traffic travelling through their neighborhood at excessive rates of speed; and

WHEREAS, in some circumstances, speed humps have been shown to be an effective tool or device for reducing the rate of speed of vehicular traffic, while not affecting the safe operation of motor vehicles across the thoroughfare; and

WHEREAS, the Town is further aware of numerous disadvantages associated with the installation of speed humps; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide a mechanism to relieve residents' concerns while balancing the needs and interests of all concerned interests; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Forest Heights finds it to be in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the Town residents, citizens and visitors to provide a uniform program for the application, consideration, design and installation of speed humps on local roads on a case-by-case basis; The Town Council hereby adopts the criteria and process for the installation of speed humps on local, residential, municipal streets as more particularly set forth

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in Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves and adopts a TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS SPEED HUMP POLICY, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and declares that in its sole discretion and authority, it shall determine whether each application for a speed hump meets such criteria on a case-by-case basis, and in no event shall any speed hump be installed without the confirmation of the availability of funds for the installation and continued maintenance of the speed hump by the Town Administrator, and speed bumps in public (non-municipal) roadways are strictly prohibited.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the installation of speed humps shall be properly marked with appropriate uniform signage and pavement markings in accordance with the Maryland Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and shall be a last step measure in a comprehensive plan for reducing vehicle speed and for discouraging cut-through traffic movements in a residential area, and that prior to the installation of speed humps, the Town shall attempt less drastic measures such as installation of additional signage, increased enforcement of traffic regulations, or other measures which may be recommended by the Town's professional staff.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to sign this Resolution and it shall take effect on the day it is adopted.

PASSED this 20th day of July 2022.

APPROVED: By Resolution of the Town Council of The Town of Forest Heights, Maryland

<u>ROLL CALL VOTE</u>	<u>YEA/NAY/ABSTAIN/ABSENT</u>
LILLY	<u>Yea</u>
KENNEDY II	<u>Yea</u>
NOBLE	<u>Yea</u>
BARNES	<u>ABSENT</u>
HINES	<u>Yea</u>
WASHINGTON	<u>Yea</u>
ATKINSON	<u>ABSENT</u>

ATTEST:

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS,
MARYLAND

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk

By: **SIGNATURE ON FILE**

Calvin Washington, Mayor

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By: Troy Lilly, President

[Exhibit A – Speed Hump Policy]

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify, as the duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Forest Heights, Maryland, that on the 20th day of July 2022 with 5 Aye votes and 0 Nay votes the aforesaid Resolution 42-22 passed.

SIGNATURE ON FILE

Sherletta Hawkins, Town Clerk