



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY MANAGER

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801  
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

TO: Eric Campbell, City Manager  
FROM: Wesley Russ  
DATE: 11/13/2020  
RE: School Bus Camera Ordinance Proposal

**Summary:** Consider adopting an ordinance allowing a monitoring system to be installed on school buses that captures license plate images and associated information of unlawful passing of a stopped school bus.

**Background:** When a school bus stops and extends its “stop” sign and lights, it is essential for the safety of the students that vehicles traveling in both directions stop. Harrisonburg Police Department deploys officers to monitor and deter unlawful passing of school buses at those locations where it is possible but continues to receive complaints about drivers unlawfully passing stopped school buses. An automatic monitoring system installed on buses would allow HPD to ensure uniform enforcement across all school buses and bus stops in the city.

**Key Issues:** Virginia Code requires the governing body to authorize the use of an automatic camera system to detect unlawful passing of school buses. Violators will be issued a civil penalty. If approved, city staff intend to contract with a private entity that will process recorded violations on the city’s behalf.

**Environmental Impact:** None

**Fiscal Impact:** Staff intend to contract with a private entity where the entity receives a set percentage of the total fines paid. This avoids any upfront costs for installation or future costs for maintenance of the system to the city.

**Prior Actions:** N/A

**Alternatives:**  
(a) Adopt the ordinance as presented  
(b) Decline to adopt the ordinance

**Community Engagement:** None



# CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY MANAGER

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801  
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

---

**Recommendation:** Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance as presented.

**Attachments:** 1) Draft ordinance

**Review:**

*The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.*

