

NOTICE-NEW INFORMATION ABOUT AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT

EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011, THE CITY OF COLLEGE PARK WILL ISSUE CITATIONS FOR SPEED ENFORCEMENT CAMERA VIOLATIONS IN THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION (IHE) ZONE (½ MILE FROM THE PERIMETER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND) DURING THE HOURS OF 6 A.M. TO 8 P.M, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. THESE INCLUDE CAMERAS LOCATED AS AUTHORIZED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

Baltimore Avenue (Route 1), from Beechwood Road to University Blvd.
Metzerott Road within City boundaries from University Boulevard to Adelphi Road
Greenbelt Road from Route 1, Baltimore Avenue, to Rhode Island Avenue
University Boulevard within the City boundaries from Adelphi Road to 49th Avenue
Paint Branch Parkway from Baltimore Ave. to the City boundary, at or about Old Calvert Road

NOTICE - IMPLEMENTATION OF COLLEGE PARK SPEED MONITORING SYSTEMS

The Mayor and City Council of the City of College Park have authorized the use of speed monitoring systems in designated school zones and within one-half mile of the University of Maryland property. The City of College Park will start operations of its speed monitoring systems with a 30-day warning period on October 15, 2010. The location of the first speed monitoring system will be on Paint Branch Parkway between Route 1, Baltimore Avenue to the City boundary, at or about Old Calvert Road. The system will be placed initially in the vicinity of the intersection of Paint Branch Parkway and the Trolley Trail. In accordance with State Law, beginning on November 15, 2010, the City of College Park will issue \$40.00 civil citations to vehicles that exceed the posted speed limit by 12 miles per hour or more.

The City of College Park intends to use speed monitoring systems on the additional following roads:

- Rhode Island Avenue from Route 193 north to the City boundary
- Metzerott Road within City boundaries from University Boulevard to Adelphi Road
- Greenbelt Road from Route 1, Baltimore Avenue, to Rhode Island Avenue
- Route 1, Baltimore Avenue, from Beechwood Road to Indian Lane
- University Boulevard within the City boundaries from Adelphi Road to 49th Avenue

For further information, call the City Department of Public Services, 240-487-3570.

1. **How can I pay a citation?** You may pay a citation in various ways.
 - 1) Mail a check or money order to: City of College Park, P.O. Box 17473, Baltimore, MD 21297-1473.
 - 2) Online by Credit Card or E-Check at www.OnlineCitationPayment.com (A service fee is applied for online payments).
 - 3) In person at College Park City Hall, 4500 Knox Road, College Park, MD. You will need to bring the complete notice for data verification.

2. **What happens if I do not pay a citation?** If you fail to pay the citation in full by the due date, your vehicle registration may be flagged and subject to refusal or suspension. If your registration is flagged, you may owe additional flagging fees to College Park and/or to the Department of Motor Vehicles. *(The MVA will assess a MVA flagging fee for each flag imposed. This fee must be paid to the MVA and is in addition to the fine and fees due to the City of College Park. MVA fees remaining unpaid may be referred to the Maryland Central Collection Unit for collection.)*

3. **What if I lost my citation?** You may call College Park Speed Camera Enforcement information at (240) 865-1862.

4. **Why did I get a citation?** A vehicle, registered or leased to you, was photographed exceeding the posted speed limit by at least 12 miles per hour, by an automatic camera connected to a speed monitoring system. Vehicles exceeding the posted maximum speed limit are detected automatically and two photographs are taken. On each photograph are the date, time, location, and speed of vehicle when the violation occurred.

5. **Is this citation a "traffic ticket"?** No. This citation is not considered a "moving violation". It is a civil citation holding the registered owner or lessee responsible for the violation (similar to a parking ticket). ***NO POINTS CAN BE ASSESSED FOR THIS VIOLATION AND IT WILL NOT RAISE YOUR INSURANCE RATES!***

6. **Can I contest this violation?** Yes. You may request to appear in District Court by returning the completed form, on the bottom of the notice you received, at least five days prior to the Date Due shown on the front of the notice. If you appear in Court, the maximum amount you can be charged is a \$40 fine and court costs. You will be notified by mail of the court date. If you do not receive a notice within 30 days, call College Park Speed Camera Enforcement at (240) 865-1862.

7. **What do I do if my vehicle or registration plates were stolen?** Send a copy of the police report for the stolen vehicle or plates with the Request for Court Date to City of College Park P.O. Box 17473, Baltimore, MD 21297-1473.

- 8. Will the speed monitoring system operator be present in court on my court date?**
No, the speed monitoring operator is not required to be present in court. However you may request the presence of the operator by submitting a written request for the operator's presence no later than twenty (20) days before your scheduled court date. Please include your citation number and send in an envelope marked "Operator Request" to City of College Park P.O. Box 17473, Baltimore, MD 21297-1473.
- 9. How do I arrange for accommodations for people with disabilities?** Both the District Court and the City of College Park will make any reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities. Requests should be directed to the appropriate agency prior to visiting the facility. You may contact College Park at (240) 865-1862 or the District Court at (301) 699-2766.
- 10. What if I was not driving the vehicle?** You must provide a sworn statement (notarized) in which you swear or affirm that you were not operating the vehicle and include any corroborating evidence. The statement must include the citation number and be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, and be received no later than 30 days after the mail date of the citation. Send all documents to City of College Park P.O. Box 17473, Baltimore, MD 21297-1473.
- 11. I got a speed camera ticket for a "School Zone", but there's no school near where I was cited. I thought school zones were only enforced within ½ mile of a school. Why did I get a ticket?** The Maryland General Assembly amended the automated speed enforcement law in 2010 to create zones ½ mile around institutions of higher education, such as the University of Maryland. IHE Zones are created in the same section of the law as School Zones and were shown on the state approved citation form with the School Zone box checked, until recently, when a revision to the form was approved to better clarify that the ticket was issued in an IHE Zone. Following is an excerpt from the state law: "In Prince George's County, on that part of a highway located within the grounds of an institution of higher education as defined in [§10-101\(f\)](#) of the [Education Article](#), or within one-half mile of the grounds of a building or property used by the institution of higher education where generally accepted traffic and engineering practices indicate that motor vehicle, pedestrian, or bicycle traffic is substantially generated or influenced by the institution of higher education."
- 12. My ticket shows photos that I think don't show my car speeding; how does the camera system work?** The pictures on the citation are for the purpose of identification of the vehicle and to demonstrate that it was in motion. They are secondary evidence and not proof of vehicle speed. The actual speed of the vehicle is measured at a fixed point 50 feet before the pictures are taken. The time distance calculation is done exactly, (not approximately), by a computer as the vehicle passes through two laser beams, which are lane specific. All of our equipment is calibrated by an outside independent firm once per year and is checked for accuracy on a daily basis. All citizens are free to challenge their citation in court in accord with the instructions on the citation.

13. How is the speed limit determined? The State Highway Administration (SHA) determines and posts speed limits on all state roads, such as Baltimore Avenue (Route 1), Greenbelt Road and University Boulevard (Route 193). Speed limits vary in different areas of the same road due to local conditions such as the number of uncontrolled intersections, the density of driveways and access roads, pedestrian crossings, etc.

Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation determines and posts speed limits on all County roads, such as Metzert Road, Paint Branch Parkway and Rhode Island Avenue.

14. What is the speed limit? Speed limits were determined and posted by each agency having jurisdiction before Automated Speed Enforcement was enacted. You should look for and make note of the posted speed limit on each of the roads you travel.

15. Did the City change any speed limits ? No.

16. When were residents advised of this new program? Advertisements were published in the Diamondback, the Gazette and on the City's Cable Television station (Channels 71 on Comcast and 25 on Verizon) beginning before October 15, 2010 until after November 15, 2010.

For further information, call the City's Department of Public Services, 240-487-3570.