



1 **City of Racine, Wisconsin**
2 **Common Council**

3 **AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

4 **COMMITTEE: Common Council/Committee of the Whole LEGISLATION ITEM #: Ord. 0017-24**

5 **AGENDA DATE: October 28 through November 14, 2024**

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7 **DEPARTMENT:** City Attorney's Office

8 **Prepared By:** City Attorney Scott R. Letteney

9 **Reviewed By:** N/A

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11 **SUBJECT:** Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason the creation of an ordinance establishing
12 procedures of locating and approving temporary speed humps and providing for special assessments to
13 pay associated costs.

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15 **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

16 The proposed ordinance would create Section 2-533 of the Municipal Code, Speed Humps Procedure and
17 Assessment. The proposed ordinance creates the criteria for determining permissible locations for speed
18 humps, creates the procedure for evaluating and approving requests for speed humps, and provides for the
19 payment of costs associated with installation of speed humps by special assessments set for benefited
20 properties.

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22 **BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

23 *A speed hump* is a parabolic vertical traffic calming device intended to slow traffic speeds on low volume,
24 low speed roads. *A temporary speed hump* is a speed hump that is installed on a seasonal basis,
25 approximately from April 1 through November 1 of a year. A temporary speed hump may also be referred
26 to as a seasonal speed hump. *A permanent speed hump* means a speed hump that is installed on a
27 permanent basis, integral to the street surface, and is constructed with either bituminous or concrete
28 pavement. The purpose of the speed hump program is to discourage traffic and violating speed restrictions
29 on local streets within the city of Racine. While stop signs, yield signs, and traffic signals may result in
30 slower speeds, such signs and signals are installed to assign right-of-way, not to control speed.
31 Proposed Ordinance 0017-24 creates the criteria for determining permissible locations for speed humps,
32 principally that speed humps may only be located on local streets that are primarily residential. In

33 addition to other requirements as set forth, speed humps may not be located primary or routine emergency
34 vehicle routes or on scheduled RYDE routes.

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36 The proposed ordinance creates the procedure for evaluating and approving requests for speed humps.
37 Requests must be made by at least four property owners on a city block and evaluated by the
38 Commissioner of Public Works based upon established objective criteria, including the conduct of a
39 traffic study, the installation of a temporary speed hump, and then an additional traffic study following the
40 installation of a temporary speed hump. Thereafter, based the data gathered by the Commissioner of
41 Public Works, the Public Works and Services Committee shall consider the request.

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43 The proposed ordinance provides for the payment of costs associated with installation of speed humps by
44 special assessments set for benefited properties. The procedure for determining whether and how a special
45 assessment shall be imposed is consistent with the procedure for special assessments for street and alley
46 repaving, including a public hearing after notice has been given to all affected properties.

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48 Definitions for all relevant terms are set forth in the proposed ordinance.

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50 **BUDGETARY IMPACT:** The costs associated with installation of speed humps shall be recovered from
51 special assessments established for benefited properties.

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53 **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:**
54 To approve, enacting the proposed ordinance establishing the speed hump program for the City of Racine.
55 To deny, declining to enact the proposed ordinance.

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57 **RECOMMENDED ACTION:** To approve.

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59 **ATTACHMENT(S):** None.