**VILLAGE OF BRICE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-02**

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AND ESTABLISHING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR AUTOMATED SPEED VIOLATIONS.

WHEREAS, the ongoing problem of motorists disobeying speed limits threatens the safety of the residents of the Village of Brice;

WHEREAS, the Village of Brice seeks to increase compliance with speed limits and thereby decrease the potential for motor vehicle crashes and pedestrian injuries that are caused by such failures to comply; and

WHEREAS, an automated speed enforcement program will assist the Village in increasing compliance with speed limits without the disadvantages attendant to conventional traffic law enforcement, such as disruptions in the flow of traffic at heavily traveled locations and intersections; and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to establish a civil penalty for violation of the speed limit and a method by which persons can appeal the finding of civil violation; and

WHEREAS, Village administration recommends: (a) the establishment of a civil penalty of approximately $125.00, similar to that which would be assessed in a traffic case with court costs; (b) increase of the civil penalty if the violator does not remit payment within thirty (30) days; and (c) that these provisions not apply to emergency and public safety vehicles engaged in an emergency response to a call for service; and

WHEREAS, it is also recommended that a vehicle owner be eligible to appeal said actions to a hearing officer if: (1) the vehicle owner was not the driver at the time of the incident; (2) the vehicle or its license plates had been reported stolen within forty-eight (48) hours of the violation time; (3) the vehicle is a commercial or rental vehicle and the owner was not the person having custody or control of the vehicle at the time of the incident; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor is authorized and directed to execute a service agreement, in substantially the same format as the attached agreement, with Third Party for the provision of automated speed enforcement equipment and services; and

WHERAS, the Ohio Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 342 regulating traffic law photo-monitoring devices and S.B. 342 was signed into law by Governor Kasich; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Supreme Court recently issued its opinion in Walker v. The City of Toledo, Slip Opinion No. 2014-Ohio-5461, in which the Ohio Supreme Court affirmed its holding in Mendenhall v. Akron; 117 Ohio St.3d 33, 2008-Ohio-270, 881 N.E.2d 255, that municipalities have home-rule authority under Article XVIII of the Ohio Constitution to impose civil liability on traffic violators through an administrative enforcement system, and further held that Ohio municipalities have home-rule authority to establish administrative proceedings, including administrative hearings, related to civil enforcement of traffic ordinances;

 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Brice, Ohio, that:

**Section 1.** **TITLE, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVES**

As used in this Ordinance, words and phrases are defined as follows:

1. “Automated speed enforcement program” is a program intended to increase compliance with speed limits using an automated speed enforcement system.
2. “Automated speed enforcement system” is a system with one or more sensors working in conjunction with a traffic law photo-monitoring device to produce recorded images of motor vehicles traveling at a prohibited rate of speed.
3. “Hearing officer” is the independent third party appointed by, but not an employee of, the Village Mayor or other office of the Village, and who is an active, registered attorney in good standing with the Ohio Supreme Court, other than a person who is employed by a law enforcement agency as defined in section 109.573 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Hearing Officer is appointed to conduct administrative hearings on violations recorded by the automated speed enforcement system.
4. “Designated party” means the person whom the registered owner of a motor vehicle upon receipt of a notice of liability identifies as the person who was operating the vehicle of the registered owner as the time of the traffic law violation.
5. “Motor vehicle” has the same definition as in Ohio Basic Code Section 70.01, as adopted by the Village and amended from time to time.
6. “Motor vehicle leasing dealer” has the same meaning as in section 4517.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.
7. “Motor vehicle renting dealer” has the same meaning as in section 4549.65 of the Ohio Revised Code.
8. “Recorded images” means images recorded by an automated speed enforcement system traffic law photo-monitoring device that show, on at least one image or on a portion of the videotape, the rear or front of a motor vehicle and the letters and numerals on the rear or front license plate of the vehicle, on any of the following:

(1) Two or more photographs; or

(2) Two or more microphotographs; or

(3) Two or more electronic images; or

(4) Two or more digital images; or

(5) Videotape or video recording.

1. “Traffic law photo-monitoring device” means an electronic system consisting of photographic, video or electronic camera and a means of sensing the presence of a motor vehicle that automatically produces recorded images.
2. “Traffic law violation” means either of the following:
	1. A violation of section 4511.21 or 4511.211 of the Revised Code or section 434.03 or 434.035 of the Codified Ordinances of Village of Brice due to failure to observe the applicable speed limit.
3. “Registered owner” or “vehicle owner” means all of the following:
4. Any person or entity identified by the Ohio bureau of motor vehicles or any other state motor vehicle registration bureau, department, or office as the owner of a motor vehicle;
5. The lessee of a motor vehicle under a lease of six months or longer;
6. The renter of a motor vehicle pursuant to a written rental agreement with a motor vehicle renting dealer.
7. “System Location” means the approach to an intersection or area of roadway toward which a traffic law photo-monitoring device is directed and is in operation.
8. “Law enforcement officer” means a sheriff, deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal, police officer of a police department of any municipal corporation, police constable of any township, or police officer of a township or joint police district, who is employed on a permanent, full-time basis by the law enforcement agency of a local authority that assigns such person to the location of a traffic law photo-monitoring device.
9. “Local authority” means a municipal corporation, county, or township.
10. “Ticket” or “notice of liability” means any traffic ticket, notice of liability, citation, summons, or other ticket issued as a result of an alleged traffic law violation recorded by an automated speed enforcement system.

**Section 2. GENERAL.**

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of the traffic code ordinances of the Village of Brice, the Village hereby adopts an automated speed enforcement program utilizing automated speed enforcement systems to record traffic law violations as outlined in this section. This automated speed enforcement program imposes liability civil penalty on the registered owner of a vehicle for failure of an operator thereof to comply with the posted speed limit in school zones or streets or highways within the Village of Brice. The imposition of a civil penalty under this section shall not be deemed a conviction for any purpose and shall not be made part of the operating record of any person upon whom the liability is imposed.
2. The Chief of Police shall be responsible for administering the automated speed enforcement program. Specifically, the Chief of Police shall be empowered to deploy and operate the automated speed enforcement system within the Village of Brice.
3. Any notice of liability for a traffic law violation pursuant to this section” shall:
4. Be approved by a law enforcement officer of the Village of Brice Police Department, who shall (a) examine evidence of an alleged violation recorded by the automated speed enforcement system to determine whether a speeding infraction has occurred, and (b) determine whether the recorded images in connection with an alleged violation shows an infraction, contains a date and time of the alleged violation, shows the letters and numerals on the vehicle’s license plate and shows the state in which the license plate was issued; and
5. Be forwarded by regular mail or personal service to the registered owner’s address as given on the state’s motor vehicle registration; and
6. Clearly state the manner in which the violation may be appealed.
7. Comply with any valid state law requirement that a local authority shall use a traffic law photo-monitoring device to detect and enforce traffic law violations only if a law enforcement officer is present at the location of the device at all times during the operation of the device.

**Section 3. OFFENSE.**

1. The vehicle owner shall be liable for a civil penalty imposed pursuant to this section if such vehicle is operated at a speed in excess of those set forth in section 4511.21 or 4511.211 of the Revised Code or section 434.03 or 434.035 of the Codified Ordinances of Village of Brice, as each may be amended from time to time, provided that:
2. For a system location that is located within a school zone or within the boundaries of a state or local park or recreation area, the Village shall not issue a violation as described in this section using an automated speed enforcement system unless the vehicle involved in the violation is traveling at least six miles per hour over the posted speed limit.
3. For a system location that is located within any other location than those described in Section 3(a)(1) above, the Village shall not issue a violation as described in this section using an automated speed enforcement system unless the vehicle involved in the violation is traveling at least ten miles per hour over the posted speed limit.
4. A person or entity who receives a notice of liability shall elect to do one of the following:
	1. In accordance with the instructions on the notice of liability, pay the civil penalty, thereby failing to contest liability and waiving the opportunity to contest the traffic law violation;
	2. Within thirty days after receipt of the notice of liability, provide the Village of Brice Police Department with either of the following affidavits:
5. An affidavit executed by the registered owner stating that another person was operating the vehicle of the registered owner at the time of the violation, identifying that person as a designated party who may be held liable for the violation, and containing at a minimum the name and address of the designated party; or
6. An affidavit by the vehicle owner stating that at the time of the violation, the motor vehicle or the license plates of the motor vehicle involved were stolen or were in the care, custody, and control of some person who did not have the owner’s permission to use the motor vehicle, or that the motor vehicle or license plates of the motor vehicle were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation. In order to demonstrate that the motor vehicle or license plates were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the vehicle owner at the time of the violation, the vehicle owner must submit proof that a police report, incident report/general offense report about the stolen motor vehicle or license plates was filed prior to the violation or within 48 hours after the violation occurred.
7. A registered owner is not responsible for a traffic law violation if, within thirty days after the date of mailing of the notice of liability, the registered owner furnishes an affidavit specified in Section 3(b)(2)(a) or (b) to the Village in a form established by the Village and the following conditions are met:
	1. If the registered owner submits an affidavit as specified in Section 3(b)(2)(a) of this section, the designated party either accepts liability for the violation by paying the civil penalty or failing to request an administrative hearing within thirty days or is determined liable in an administrative hearing;
	2. If the registered owner submits an affidavit as specified in Section 3(b)(2)(b) of this section, the affidavit is supported by a stolen vehicle or stolen license plate report as required in that division;
	3. If the registered owner is a motor vehicle leasing dealer or a motor vehicle renting dealer, notify the Village of Brice Police Department of the name and address of the lessee or renter of the motor vehicle at the time of the traffic law violation. A motor vehicle leasing dealer or motor vehicle renting dealer who receives a ticket for an alleged traffic law violation detected by a traffic law phot-monitoring device is not liable for a ticket issued for a motor vehicle that was in the care, custody, or control of a lessee or renter at the time of the alleged violation. The dealer shall not pay such a ticket or notice of liability and subsequently attempt to collect a fee or assess the lessee or renter a charge for any payment of such a ticket made on behalf of the lessee or renter;
	4. If the vehicle involved in the traffic law violation is a commercial motor vehicle and the notice of liability is issued to a corporate entity, provide to the Village of Brice Police Department an affidavit, sworn to or affirmed by an agent of the corporate entity, that provides the name and address of the employee who was operating the motor vehicle at the time of the alleged violation and who is the designated party;
	5. Contest the ticket by filing a written request for an administrative hearing to review the notice of liability. The person or entity shall file the written request not later than thirty days after receipt of the notice of liability. The failure to request a hearing within this time period constitutes a waiver of the right to contest the violation and notice of liability, and is deemed to constitute an admission of liability and waiver of the opportunity to contest the violation.
8. In the event that the Village and/or the Village of Brice Police Department receives from a registered owner an affidavit described in Section 3(b)(2)(a) or (b) or a notice described in Section 3(c)(4) hereof, the Village may proceed to send a notice of liability that conforms with Section 4 to the designated party, the Village shall send the notice of liability to the designated party not later than twenty-one days after receipt of the affidavit or notification.
9. A certified copy of the notice of liability alleging the violation of this Ordinance occurred, sworn to or affirmed by a law enforcement officer of the Village of Brice Police Department, with the recorded images produced by an automated speed enforcement system shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained therein and shall be admissible in a proceeding alleging a traffic law violation under this Ordinance.

(f) Exception for emergency or public safety vehicles:

The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to emergency vehicles or public safety vehicles when those vehicles are responding to emergency or call for emergency service.

(g) The hearing officer may dismiss the notice of liability when he or she deems that a dismissal is fair and equitable or warranted based upon his or her sole discretion.

Section 4. NOTICE OF LIABILITY.

(a) The notice of liability shall be processed by the Village of Brice or its designee and shall be served by ordinary mail to the vehicle owner’s address as given on the motor vehicle registration from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, or its equivalent of the state in which it is registered. The notice of liability shall include:

1. The name and address of the registered owner;
2. The letters and numerals appearing on the license plate issued to the motor vehicle;
3. The traffic law violation charged;
4. The system location;
5. The date and time of the violation;
6. A copy of the recorded image(s);
7. The amount of the civil penalty imposed and the date by which the civil penalty should be paid and the address to which payment is to be sent;
8. Information advising the person alleged to be liable of the options as provided in Section 3(b) of this Ordinance;
9. Information advising the person or entity alleged to be liable of the options prescribed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.098 and and Sections 3 and 7 of this Ordinance, specifically to include the time, place and manner in which an administrative appeal may be initiated and the procedure for disclaiming liability by submitting an affidavit as prescribed in any of those sections;
10. The date of issuance of the notice of liability;
11. The name and badge number of the law enforcement officer who was present at the system location at the time of the traffic law violation;
12. A statement signed by a law enforcement officer employed by the Village of Brice indicating that, based on an inspection of recorded images, the motor vehicle was involved in a traffic law violation, and a statement indicating that the recorded images are prima facie evidence of that traffic law violation, both of which may be signed electronically;
13. A warning that failure to exercise one of the options prescribed in Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.098 or Sections 3 and 7 of this Ordinance is deemed to be an admission of liability and waiver of the opportunity to contest the violation.

(b) A notice of liability issued under this Ordinance shall be mailed no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the alleged traffic law violation.

(c) Except as provided under Section 3(b) of this Ordinance, the Village of Brice or its designee may not mail a notice of liability to a person who is not the registered owner.

(d) It is prima facie evidence that the person registered as the owner of the vehicle with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (or with any other applicable state vehicle registration office) was operating the vehicle at the time of the offense set out in Section 3 of this Ordinance. This evidence and presumption may be rebutted in accordance with Section 3(b) or 7 of this Ordinance.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the liability of an owner of a vehicle for any violation of Section 3 of this Ordinance.

**Section 5. CIVIL PENALTIES.**

(a) Unless the driver of the motor vehicle received a citation from a police officer at the time of the violation, or unless the exception or defense to liability set forth in Section 3(d) applies, the registered owner or designated party for the motor vehicle is subject to a civil penalty if the motor vehicle is recorded by an automated speed enforcement system while being operated in violation of this Ordinance.

(b) The civil penalty under this Ordinance shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

* 1. If the civil penalty is paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of issuance of the notice of liability – one hundred twenty dollars ($120.00);
	2. If the civil penalty is paid more than thirty (30) calendar days, but within forty five (45) calendar days after date of issuance of the notice of liability – an additional late fee of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) shall be added to the amount of the civil penalty;
1. If the civil penalty is paid more than forty five (45) calendar days of the date of issuance of the notice of liability – an additional late fee of eighty dollars ($80.00) shall be added to the amount of the civil penalty;
2. In addition to any civil penalty and any additional late fee, any and all costs or expenses incurred by the Village in connection with the placement of a notice of liability issued hereunder with outside counsel for litigation or collection thereof shall be assessed against the person or entity found to be liable hereunder;
3. The failure to respond to a notice of liability in a timely fashion as set forth in this Ordinance shall constitute a waiver of the right to contest liability for the violation under Section 3(b) of this Ordinance.
4. Persons who choose to pay the civil penalty without appearing before a Hearing Officer, as set forth in Section 7, may do so in the manner indicated on the notice of liability.
5. A traffic law violation for which a civil penalty is imposed under this Ordinance is not a moving violation for the purpose of assessing points under Ohio Revised Code Section 4507.021 for minor misdemeanor moving traffic offenses and may not be recorded on the driving record of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle and shall not be reported to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, nor shall such a violation be recorded on the driving record of the owner or operator of the vehicle involved in the violation.

Section 6: COLLECTION OF CIVIL PENALTY.

If the civil penalty is not paid, the civil penalty imposed under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be collectable, together with any late fees, placement fee, interest and penalties thereon, in any manner authorized by law including but not limited to civil suit. In addition to any other fees or charges authorized by this Ordinance in relation to the commission of a violation of this Ordinance, a person liable for the penalties established under this Ordinance will be assessed fees under this Ordinance in an amount equal to the costs of collection of the debt with outside counsel hired or retained by the Village for litigation or collection of any citation or debt hereunder, as set forth in Section 5 hereof.

Section 7: ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL HEARING PROCESS.

1. A registered owner or designated party may contest the notice of liability by filing a written request for an administrative hearing to review the notice of liability with the Village Police Department or its designee. A written notice of request for an administrative hearing must be received by the Village Police Department, or its designee, within thirty (30) calendar days after the date of issuance of the notice of liability. The failure to give notice of request for an administrative hearing within this time period shall constitute a waiver of the right to contest the notice of liability. A hearing officer shall conduct administrative hearings. Administrative hearings shall be held within forty-five (45) business days of the date that timely request for a hearing is received by the Village Police Department or its designee, but not sooner than twenty-one (21) days from receipt by the Village Police Department of such request; this time may be extended upon a reasonable written request for additional time or upon reasonable notification of the hearing officer or Village with notice to all parties. The administrative hearing shall be open to the public, and a hearing schedule shall be posted in a conspicuous place near the entrance to the hearing room that shall identify, by alleged violator, the administrative hearings scheduled for that day and the time of each hearing. More than one hearing may be scheduled for the same time to allow for such things as non-appearances or admissions of liability.
2. The hearing officer shall determine whether a preponderance of evidence establishes that a traffic law violation occurred and the person requesting the administrative hearing is the party operating the vehicle at the time of the traffic law violation. The hearing officer shall advise the person or entity on the day of the hearing of the hearing officer’s decision.
	1. If the hearing officer finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged traffic law violation did in fact occur and that the person or entity named in the notice of liability is the person who was operating the vehicle at the time of the violation, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision imposing civil penalty for the violation upon the individual or entity and submit it to the Village of Brice or its designee and the person or entity named in the notice of liability;
	2. If the hearing officer finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the alleged traffic law violation did not occur or did in fact occur but the person or entity named in the notice of liability is not the person who was operating the vehicle at the time of the violation, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision finding that the individual or entity is not liable for the violation and submit it to the Village of Brice or its designee and the person or entity named in the notice of liability;
	3. If the person who requested the administrative hearing or a representative of the entity that requested the hearing fails to appear at the hearing, the hearing officer shall determine that the person or entity is liable for the violation. In such a case, the hearing officer shall issue a written decision imposing liability for the violation upon the individual or entity and submit it to the local authority or its designee and the person or entity named in the notice of liability.
3. If the registered owner or designated party chooses to contest the notice of liability, the hearing officer may consider any of the following as an affirmative defense to a violation upon the defense being established by a preponderance of the evidence by the registered owner or designated party:
4. That the motor vehicle or license plates of the motor vehicle were stolen before the violation occurred and were not under control or possession of the registered owner at the time of the traffic law violation. In order to demonstrate that the motor vehicle or license plates were stolen before the traffic law violation occurred and were not under the control or possession of the registered owner at the time of the traffic law violation, the owner must submit proof that a police report about the stolen motor vehicle or license plates was filed prior to the traffic law violation or within 48 hours after the traffic law violation occurred.
5. That the motor vehicle was under the custody and/or control of another person at the time of the violation. In order to establish this, the owner or responsible person must provide the name and address of the person who had custody and/or control of the motor vehicle at the time of the traffic law violation.
6. That this section is unenforceable because the recorded image is not legible enough to determine the information needed.
7. Evidence, other than that adduced pursuant to Section 7(b)(1) of this Ordinance, that the registered owner or person named in the notice of liability was not operating the motor vehicle at the time of the violation. To satisfy the evidentiary burden under this subsection, the owner or person named in the notice of liability shall provide to the hearing officer evidence showing the identity of the person who was operating the motor vehicle at the time of the traffic law violation, including, but not limited to, the operator’s name and current address, and any other evidence the hearing officer deems pertinent.
8. That under consideration of the totality of the circumstances the person or entity named in the notice of liability is not liable.
9. If the hearing officer finds that the person or entity named in the notice of liability was not operating the motor vehicle at the time of the violation or receives evidence under Section 7(b)(4) identifying the designated party, the hearing officer shall provide it to the Village of Brice or its designee within five (5) calendar days, along with a copy of any evidence substantiating who was operating the motor vehicle at the time of the traffic law violation.
10. Upon receipt of evidence of the designated party pursuant to this Section or pursuant to Section 3(b), the Village of Brice or its designee may issue a notice of liability, with the name and address of the designated party and the information required by Section 4 of this Ordinance, to the person that the evidence indicates was operating the motor vehicle at the time of the violation.
11. A notice of liability issued under this Section 7(c), shall be sent by the Village of Brice or its designee by ordinary mail no later than twenty-one (21) business days after the receipt of the evidence from the hearing officer. The content of a notice of liability issued under this subsection shall be the same as set forth in division (a) of Section 4 of this Ordinance.
12. If a designated party who was issued a notice of liability under Section 7(c) hereof contests the ticket by filing a written request for an administrative hearing to review the notice of liability not later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the notice of liability, the Village of Brice shall require the registered owner of the motor vehicle also to attend the hearing. If at the hearing involving the designated party the hearing officer cannot determine the identity of the operator of the vehicle at the time of the violation, the registered owner is liable for the violation. The hearing officer then shall issue a written decision imposing liability for the violation on the registered owner and submit it to the Village or its designee and to the registered owner. If the designated party also is a registered owner of the vehicle, liability for the violation shall follow the order of registered owners as listed on the title to the vehicle.
13. A person who is named in a notice of liability for a civil violation may assert a testimonial privilege in accordance with division (D) of Section 2317.02 of the Ohio Revised Code.
14. A person or entity may appeal a written decision rendered by a hearing officer under this section to the court with jurisdiction over the location where the violation occurred.

**Section 8. CALIBRATION**

1. The manufacturer or operator of the automated speed enforcement system used by the Village, or an independent calibration laboratory, shall calibrate said device before it is used by the Village. The manufacturer or operator of the automated speed enforcement system shall certify to the accuracy of each traffic law photo-monitoring device in accordance with applicable federal law, if any. For each traffic law photo-monitoring device that is considered mobile or portable, meaning it is attached to a trailer, vehicle, or other apparatus that is easily transported to different automated speed enforcement system locations, the automated speed enforcement system shall perform a system self-test and calibration verification of said traffic law photo-monitoring device in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications prior to its use at each the automated speed enforcement system location. For each device that is considered mobile or portable, meaning it is attached to a trailer, vehicle or other apparatus that is easily transported to different system locations, the Village or its designee shall clearly and conspicuously mark on the outside of the trailer, vehicle, or apparatus that contains the traffic law photo-monitoring device that the device is the property or under the control of the Village.

**Section 9. SIGNS**

The Village Service Department shall erect signs on every highway, which is not a freeway, that is part of the state highway system and that enters into the Village and at each fixed system location. The signs shall inform inbound traffic that the Village utilizes traffic law phot-monitoring devices to enforce traffic laws. The signs shall be erected within the first three hundred feet of the boundary of the Village and any fixed system location or, if the signs cannot be located within the first three hundred feet of the boundary of the Village or a fixed system location, as close to that distance as possible, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 4511.094.

**Section 10.**

The Service Agreement between the Village of Brice and Third Party, in substantially the form attached hereto, is approved, and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Service Agreement, with such changes as the Mayor may approve as neither inconsistent with the Ordinance nor materially detrimental to the Village. The Mayor’s execution of the Service Agreement is to be conclusive evidence of such approval.

**Section 11.**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, clause or provision or any part thereof of this Ordinance shall be finally adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance shall be unaffected by such adjudication and all the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect as though such section, subsection, paragraph, clause or provision or any part thereof so adjudicated to be invalid had not, to the extent of such invalidity, been included herein.

**Section 12.**

That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were taken in conformance with applicable open meetings laws and that all deliberations of this Council and of any committees that resulted in those formal actions were in compliance with all legal requirements including any applicable open meetings requirements.