

March 17, 2015

Item No. 1

Ordinance No. 2094/15

The following Ordinance was moved by Pres. Torres
and seconded by Ms. Goggin :

Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City
of Long Beach Re: Motor Vehicles and Traffic to Improve
Traffic, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety.

WHEREAS, on September 19, 2012, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2076/12, reducing the maximum speed limit along the streets in the area known as the “President Streets” to fifteen miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, on July 2, 2013, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 99/13, reducing the maximum speed limit along any public highway or street in the City to a rate of 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 2013, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 108/13, a Complete Streets Program Policy designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, the City recently commissioned a Traffic Study which calls for the implementation of several traffic safety initiatives to reduce preventable pedestrian, bicyclist and motorist accidents; and

WHEREAS, one of the concerns is addressing excessive speeding along side streets; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Police Department has developed a signal timing optimization plan for the City’s street lights, which are owned and timed by Nassau County, in order to re-time the lights along Park Avenue, for safe and efficient movement of traffic along this main roadway, encouraging motorists to use Park Avenue and not the side streets as their main roadway, thereby redirecting traffic off of the side streets, creating a safer environment on our residential roads; and

WHEREAS, our Traffic Safety Study consultants recommend that as studies have shown, that lowering the speed limit, by five miles per hour can have a serious impact in reducing the number of traffic-related injuries and death, as lower speeds can greatly reduce crashes as motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians have more time to see each other, and, if a crash does occur, the severity of injuries is reduced at lower speeds; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that it is in the best interest for the welfare and safety of our residents and visitors to reduce the speed limit on City side streets that are currently 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, the lowest permissible speed without State legislation, and there has been presented to this Council the following proposed Ordinance;

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES
OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH RE: MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC, PEDESTRIAN AND
BICYCLE SAFETY.

BE IT ENACTED, by the City Council of the City of Long Beach, New York, as follows:

Sec. 1. Chapter 15, Article III, Division 1, Sections 15-106(b) and (c) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Long Beach, as heretofore amended, shall be and the same are hereby amended and added to read as follows, with Section 15-106(a) remaining in full force and affect:

“Sec. 15-106. Maximum speed limits.

(a) *Fifteen miles per hour:* No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any public highway or street of the city between Nevada Avenue and New York Avenue, both inclusive, excepting only West Park Avenue and West Beech Street; and upon East Pine Street between Neptune Boulevard and Curley Street and East Chester Street between Neptune Boulevard and Curley Street; upon Curley, Harmon, Clark, Vinton, Farrell, Barnes, Kirkwood, Heron, Boyd, Dalton, Kerrigan, Armour, Doyle and Forester Streets; and upon Cleveland, Harding, Mitchell, Belmont, Pacific, Atlantic, Coolidge, Wilson and Taft Avenues at a rate of speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour.

(b) *Twenty-five miles per hour:* No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon the following designated streets at a rate of speed in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour:

Bay Drive; State Street; Harrison Street; Pine Street; Fulton Street; Hudson Street; Market Street; Chester Street; Walnut Street; Olive Street; Beech Street between Roosevelt Boulevard and Nevada Avenue; Penn Street; Shore Road; Maple Boulevard; Pacific Boulevard; Roosevelt Boulevard; Neptune Boulevard; Franklin Boulevard; Lincoln Boulevard; Monroe Boulevard; Riverside Boulevard; Edwards Boulevard; JJ Evans Boulevard; Park Place; Centre Street; National Boulevard; Magnolia Boulevard; Laurelton Boulevard; Lafayette Boulevard; Washington Boulevard; Lindell Boulevard; and Grand Boulevard.

(c) *Thirty miles per hour:* No person shall operate a motor vehicle upon any public highway or street of the city at a rate of speed in excess of thirty (30) miles per hour, except as otherwise provided.

Sec. 2. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.