



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Chatham County Police Department to Delay School Zone Speed Cameras Restart *Cameras Will Not Turn on At the Beginning of the School Year So They Be Brought into Compliance with New State Law*

Chatham County, GA (July 27, 2026) – The Chatham County Police Department will not re-start its School Zone Speed Cameras on the first day of school this year so that they can be brought into compliance with a new state law that took effect July 1, 2026.

“School Zone Speed Cameras have reduced overall speeding in our school zones by 96%, and we value them as a crucial safety device,” said Chatham County Police Chief Jeff Hadley. “However, new state laws require us to re-license the cameras through the Georgia Department of Transportation, and that process will take time. The Chatham County Police Department always operates within the parameters of the law, and School Zone Speed Cameras are no exception.”

There is currently no timeline for when the Georgia Department of Transportation will complete the re-licensing process. Once the process is completed and the cameras are ready to be re-started, the Chatham County Police Department will give the public an advanced two-weeks’ notice through social media, the Chatham County Police Department app, and press releases to area media. In the interim, Chief Hadley is urging drivers to be vigilant in school zones.

“This is the first time since 2020 that we have started a school year without these cameras in place,” said Hadley. “Before the cameras were installed, speed studies were done in each school zone. At May Howard Elementary, for example, the study found 3,620 vehicles sped through the school zone during a five-day period. When the study was conducted this year, only 20 people sped through that same school zone in a five-day period. The thought of us going back to those pre-School Zone Speed Camera numbers is harrowing.”

Hadley says drivers should pay attention to signage, obey crossing cards, be mindful of children walking and riding bikes to and from school, and should be prepared to slow down as they approach school zones.

“We know that a child hit by a vehicle traveling 40 miles per hour only has a one in ten chance of surviving their injuries,” said Hadley. “If the speed of a vehicle is reduced to 20 miles per

hour, the chances of that child surviving are nine in ten. That statistic alone should make every driver slow down to ensure the safety of children on their way to and from school.”

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