

Local Law ____ of 2024

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING HUDSON CITY CODE §305-3
RELATING TO THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT IN THE CITY OF HUDSON**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUDSON AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. TITLE This Local Law shall be known as Local Law No. ____ for the year 2024.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

A speed limit set too high may minimize travel time but at the cost of safety to vulnerable road users in the context of a residential area. Research shows that faster driving speeds correlate to more serious injuries and fatalities for pedestrians in the event of an accident. The faster a vehicle travels, the less time its driver will have to see a pedestrian in the road and stop and the less time a pedestrian will have to react. According to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, a pedestrian struck by a vehicle going 25mph has a 25 percent risk of sustaining a serious or fatal injury, a 50 percent risk at 33mph and a 75 percent risk at 41mph.

A 2018 study released by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that lowering the speed limit by 5 mph on city streets improves safety outcomes for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists by reducing the incidence of speeding. The study focused on Boston, which in 2017 lowered its default speed limit on city streets from 30mph to 25mph. Researchers found that after the city lowered its speed limit, the estimated odds of a vehicle exceeding odds of a vehicle exceeding 30mph of exceeding 25mph. These reduced the incidence of serious injuries and accidents 35mph fell by 29.3 percent. Also, the fell by 8.5 percent and by 2.9 percent speeds will help to curb the city's fatalities in pedestrian involved

In 2014, New York City lowered its speed limit from 30mph to 25mph, as part of a program known as "Vision Zero," aimed at ending all traffic related deaths and serious injuries in the city by 2024. To date, the three years following implementation of the program have been studied and the number of traffic related fatalities declined for these three consecutive years and went down 23 percent overall. This bill would afford cities, towns and villages in the state the option to set its maximum speed limit at 25mph. Under current law, the default maximum speed limit throughout a city, town or village may not be set lower than 30mph. Research proves that the public's safety benefits when speed limits are lowered, and municipalities should be granted the authority to take this proactive step to help decrease fatalities and the severity of injuries that can result from speed related accidents. Reducing speed limits is an efficient, simple solution to protect the public and prevent tragedies.

In August of 2022 Section 1643 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law was amended to grant cities the authority to lower the speed limit to as low as 25 MPH. The City of Hudson conducted a speed limit evaluation which determined that a reduced speed limit of 25 MPH was recommended for a majority of the city with limited exceptions.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The purpose of this legislation is to reduce the speed limit within the city limits to 25 MPH and to provide certain exceptions where the speed limit shall remain 30 MPH.

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This local law is authorized by the Municipal Home Rule Law (Chapter 36-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York) and New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1643.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Chapter 305, Article II Section 305-3 of the Hudson City Code is hereby amended by deleting Section 305-3 in its entirety and replacing it the following:

§ 305-3. Maximum speed limit.

- A. Twenty-five miles per hour is hereby established as the maximum speed at which vehicles may proceed within the corporate limits of the City except as provided in Subsections B and C below.
- B. Forty miles per hour on Fairview Avenue on the western City boundary to Graham Avenue within the corporate limits of the City.
- C. Thirty-five miles per hour is hereby established for the NY 9G at the east City boundary to the intersection of Power Avenue within the corporate limits of the City.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined to its operation in said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon passage and filing with the Secretary of State.

Introduced _____

Seconded _____

Approved

By _____

Kamal Johnson, Mayor