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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 4, 2018

William F. Keller, Chairman
House Transportation Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
326 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Keller:

For the House Transportation Committee hearing on local and regional potential use of radar as a speed timing device being held on April 4, 2018, I respectfully submit this testimony from a highly experienced public servant from my district. I would be grateful if you would consider its inclusion in the public record.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Markosek".

Joseph Markosek
25th Legislative District

Honorable Joe Markosek
Pa. Transportation Committee

April 3, 2018

Subj: Use of Radar by Municipal / City Police for Speed Enforcement

I am a retired Police Officer from the Municipality of Monroeville, Allegheny County. I served the community for 25 ½ years, with the last 10 years as the Sergeant in-charge of the Traffic Unit. I also have served with the Vol. Fire Department for the past 48 years responding to numerous vehicle crashes.

I do support **Senate Bill 251** allowing Municipal and City Police Departments to utilize Radar for the purpose of Speed Enforcement.

Now that being said, I should also inform you that after being retired for approximately 10 years, I ran for a Council position and won. So, I currently sit on Monroeville Council, smaller, but somewhat in the same position as you.

In my career, I have enforced speed on the State highways and Municipal roadways that pass through Monroeville. With the current enforcement laws, for details to be even somewhat effective and considering the speed timing devices that we were allowed to use, it was necessary to utilize at least 3 Officers, one to operate the speed timing device and the other two to stop the offender. As you can imagine, the Municipality incurred a much higher expense to the budget when we operated these details AND we could not do them frequently enough to make the enforcement last. In other words, SLOW the traffic down.

We operated details on Commonwealth Highways, Municipal roads in neighborhoods and school zones and in my humble opinion, the enforcement

never lasted because motorists simply knew that the enforcement detail was probably only for the day – and it was!

In all of my years investigating vehicle crashes and DUI enforcement, there is no doubt that effective speed enforcement would have reduced the number of these fatalities.

With the use of radar, motorists will have to become consistently vigilant of their speed and use caution when traveling in communities with posted roadways. There negatives to this, of course. I would hope that if the Commonwealth entrusted the responsibility of speed enforcement by the use of radar, that it would be used responsibly. This technology would allow the normal patrol / zone officer to enforce speed and still answer his/her calls, then, return to the detail or problem area. The hope is that not only the Officer but the Chief and the Elected Officials use this enforcement option for the safety of the community.

I am sure there will be some abuse. There is with every law allowing a privilege, but please consider the positive results. There is no doubt in my mind that this enforcement will save lives and ultimately SLOW traffic.

Should investigations in the following years show that the law needs modified, then DO IT. Please consider the majority of the responsible Departments who will use this enforcement the way it was intended and not the small number who might abuse this most effective way to enforce speed regulations, slow traffic and SAVE LIVES.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ronald G. Harvey
Sgt. Retired Monroeville Police Dept.
Council – 3rd Ward Municipality of Monroeville