

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-13**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE A REASONABLE AND SAFE PRIMA-FACIE SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**WHEREAS**, over the years, residents of the Village of Hiram have complained about motorists traveling in excess of the posted speed limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Village of Hiram, Ohio wants to ensure the safety of all residents of the Village of Hiram, including its active pedestrian community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Hiram has an active pedestrian community comprised of college students, autistic adults, older residents, small children, and pets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Hiram wants to prioritize safety, comfort, and connectivity to destinations for all people who use its street and sidewalk network; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies show that reduced speeds save lives and according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials, a pedestrian hit by a car traveling 35 mph is five times more likely to die than a person hit at 25 mph; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association, pedestrian fatalities in the year 2019 were the highest in more than 30 years and that number rose again by 18% in 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the installation of new electric utility poles within the Village has created ingress and egress safety concerns for residents who as a result now have 2-3 utility poles at the end of their driveway; and

**WHEREAS**, sidewalks along State Routes 82 and 305 in some instances abut the roadway; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Hiram has numerous amenities that require traffic to slow including businesses, a church, parks, government buildings including police and fire stations, a community farm that employs autistic adults, a US Post Office, and Hiram College;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Village of Hiram, Ohio a majority of the members thereto concurring that:

**SECTION 1:** The existing speed limit along State Routes 82 and 305 is greater than is reasonable and safe, both along State Route 82 from the Village cemetery to the stop light and south toward the Village of Garrettsville for another 1,300 feet, and along State Route 305 from the stop light east to the Village water plant.

**SECTION 2:** The Village of Hiram would like to request the Director of ODOT to determine and declare a reasonable and safe prima-facie speed limit.

**SECTION 3:** This Resolution is declared an emergency measure becoming effective immediately upon its passage by Council and approval by the Mayor necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Village and so the Village can benefit from the expertise of a traffic study requested by the Director of ODOT.

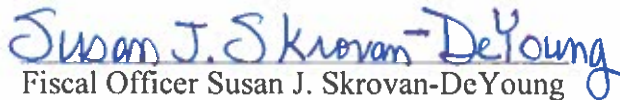
**SECTION 4:** It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that the deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code of the State of Ohio.

First Reading June 13, 2023.

PASSED IN COUNCIL as an emergency on June 27, 2023.

  
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Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:

  
Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung

Approved as to Form:

  
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Village Solicitor Thomas Reitz