

## **TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION**

### **POLICE COMMITTEE**

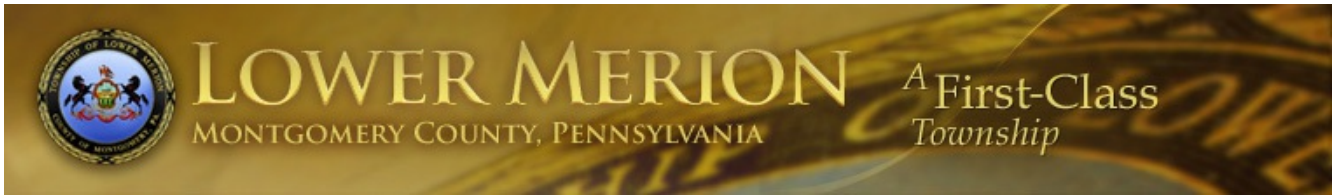
**Wednesday, March 6, 2024  
7:00 PM ( Approximately)**

Chairperson: Shawn Kraemer

Vice Chairperson: Joshua L. Grimes, Anthony C. Stevenson, V. Scott Zelv

### **AGENDA**

- 1. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 145, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC - PENWYN ROAD PARKING RESTRICTIONS**
- 2. AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SERGEANT OF POLICE**
- 3. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED RED LIGHT CAMERA PROGRAM**



## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

### ITEM: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE ORDINANCE - CHAPTER 145, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC - PENWYN ROAD PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the Township Secretary to advertise a notice of intent to adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 145, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, Article XV, Schedules, Section 145-118, Schedule XVIII: Parking Time Limited, to establish a four hour parking regulation during certain hours, except Saturday and Sunday, on both sides of Penwyn Road, between Penn Road and Bolsover Road, the distance of 185 feet.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Briefing	Issue Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Diagram	Presentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	Ordinance

## TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

### *Police Committee*

#### Issue Briefing

**Topic:** Parking Time Restriction, Penwyn Road (Wynnewood, Ward 5)

**Prepared By:** Gerald G. Adams, Director of Parking Services

**Date:** March 1, 2024

**I. Action To Be Considered by The Board:** Authorize the Township Secretary to advertise notice of intent to adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 145, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, Article XV, Schedules, Section 145-118, Schedule XVIII: Parking Time Limited, to establish a four hour parking regulation during certain hours, except Saturday and Sunday, on both sides of Penwyn Road between Penn Road and Bolsover Road, the distance of 185 feet.

**II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** The establishment of parking regulations requires the approval of the Board of Commissioners.

**III. Current Policy or Practice (If Applicable):** This request is consistent with past practice and policy.

**IV. Other Relevant Background Information:** Parking is currently not restricted in this location. In Fall 2023, the Parking Services Department received several complaints about additional vehicles, potentially from Lower Merion High School students, parking on Penwyn Road between Sabine Road and Penn Road. This was most noticeable on the stretch of Penwyn Road between Penn Road and Bolsover Road.

The adjacent residents reported that the additional vehicles were causing sight obstructions at Penn Road and restricting turns into Penwyn Road from Penn Road. Residents were also concerned that these conditions could hinder emergency vehicle access to the area. It should be noted that Lower Merion Police Department and Fire Department staff have not reported any hazard or accident history.

The Parking Services Director has observed excessive parking on this street making the street difficult to traverse. It is believed that implementing time limits on parking in this area will alleviate the problem.

**V. Impact On Township Finances:** The cost for installation and purchase of signage is minimal.

**VI. Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends authorizing the Township Secretary to advertise the proposed ordinance.



Residents wish to restrict both sides of Penwyn Rd to 4-hour parking between Bolsover Rd and Penn Rd. Extra student vehicles cause sight obstructions and issues for emergency vehicles, on school days.

## AN ORDINANCE

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AN ORDINANCE To Amend The Code Of The Township Of Lower Merion, Chapter 145, Entitled Vehicles And Traffic, Article XV, Schedules, Section 145-118, Schedule XVIII: Parking Time Limited, To Establish A Four Hour Parking Regulation During Certain Hours, Except Saturday And Sunday, On Both Sides of Penwyn Road Between Penn Road And Bolsover Road, The Distance Of 185 Feet.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Lower Merion does hereby enact and ordain:

**Section 1.** The Code of the Township of Lower Merion, Chapter 145, entitled Vehicles and Traffic, Article XV, Schedules, §145-118, Schedule XVIII: Parking Time Limited, is hereby amended by the addition of the following regulation:

**§145-118. Schedule XVIII: Parking Time Limited**

Name of Highway	Side	Hours	Location
Penwyn Road	Both	4 hour parking 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. except Sat. and Sun.	Between Penn Road and Bolsover Road the distance of 185 feet.

**Section 2.** Nothing in this Ordinance or in Chapter 145 of the Code of the Township of Lower Merion, as hereby amended, shall be construed to affect any suit or proceeding in any Court, any rights acquired or liability incurred, any permit issued, or any cause or causes of action existing under the said Chapter 145 prior to the adoption of this amendment.

**Section 3.** The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any section, sentence, clause, part, or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect or impair the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, parts, or provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board that this Ordinance would have been adopted as if such illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional section, sentence, clause, part, or provision had not been included herein.

**Section 4.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

Approved by the Board this            day of            , 2024

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

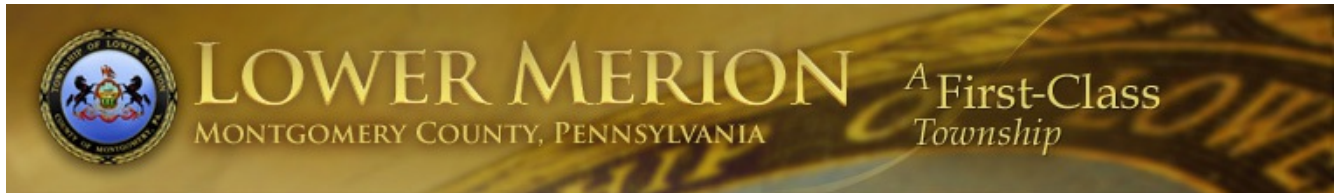
\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd M. Sinai, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jody L. Kelley, Secretary

DRAFT






## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

### ITEM: AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SERGEANT OF POLICE

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the Civil Service Commission to conduct competitive examinations to establish an eligibility list for the position of Sergeant of Police.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
 Issue Briefing	Issue Briefing

## TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

### *Police Committee*

#### Issue Briefing

**Topic:** Police Promotional Examination

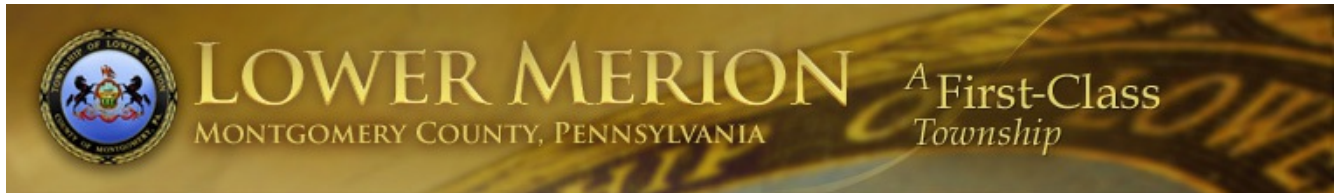
**Prepared By:** Michael J. McGrath, Superintendent of Police

**Date:** March 6, 2024

- I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:** Authorize the Township Manager to request the Civil Service Commission to conduct a competitive examination to establish an eligibility list for the position of Sergeant.
- II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:** Under Civil Service Regulations, the Civil Service Commission is responsible for conducting the competitive examination process and certifying successful candidates as eligible for promotion. The Board of Commissioners is then responsible for approving any eventual promotions.
- III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):** This request is consistent with past practice and policy and Civil Service Regulations.
- IV. Other Relevant Background Information:** There is no current valid certified list for promotion to the rank of Sergeant. The last promotional list for the rank of Sergeant was established in 2021. By Civil Service Regulation and state law, this list expired in 2023 and is no longer valid. In order to fill current and future vacant supervisory positions in the police department a new promotional examination process needs to be conducted. There is currently one vacant patrol Sergeant position in the department.

With the ever-increasing demand on police departments locally and nationally to improve community engagement, protect against domestic and international threats, address gun violence and to provide services customized to community expectations, a full complement of supervisory and management staff is essential to ensure efficient operation of the Police Department and to effectively deliver these services to our community.
- V. Impact On Township Finances:** This position is included in the adopted 2024 Police Department Budget. The estimated cost for the Sergeant's Promotional Test is \$5,000.
- VI. Staff Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Township Manager to request the Civil Service Commission to conduct a competitive promotional examination for the rank of Sergeant.





## AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

### ITEM: PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED RED LIGHT CAMERA PROGRAM

The Superintendent of Police will make a presentation about red light cameras and seek direction about whether to pursue potential implementation of a red light camera program.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

### ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Type
 PRESENTATION	Presentation

# TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION



## **POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **MARCH 2024**

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# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## The Law

Act 84 of 2012 (previously House Bill 254) added 3117 to the Vehicle Code – PA Title 75

Lower Merion Township is one of the municipalities eligible to participate in such a program

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## Surrounding Agencies Participating in the ARLE Program

Abington Township

Philadelphia

Bensalem Township\*

Warrington Township\*

\* Currently implementing the ARLE program

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## IMPLEMENTATION

- The municipality must pass an ordinance authorizing enforcement
- Intersections with ARLE system must be approved by PennDOT
- The locations must be based on safety and crash reduction
- Fines are set at a maximum of \$100

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## IMPLEMENTATION cont.

- Recorded images must be sworn to or affirmed by a Police Officer
- Township will need to identify a hearing officer to handle violation appeals
- PennDOT has approved two ARLE vendors to operate within the State:

Verra Mobility

Sensys Gatso Group

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

VENDORS will provide:

- Equipment installation
- Maintenance
- Administrative Services



# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## LIABILITY AND DEFENSES

- Owner of the vehicle is Liable for the violation
- It may be a defense that the owner was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## PROS AND CONS

### Pros:

- Reported decrease in serious injury broad-side type crashes
- Revenue into safety improvement grant programs
- Increased Police availability
- Encourages obedience to traffic laws

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## PROS AND CONS cont.

### Cons:

- Reported increase in rear-end type collisions in some locations
- Intersections unable to remain sustainable (in a successful program, fine revenue would decrease)
- No Police Officer discretion at time of violation
- Negative public perception

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## Participating Agency Data

### Abington Township – 3 Intersections

- 50% reduction in intersectional crashes
- 700-1000 violations captured per month
- Violation revenue continues to pay for program
- Ease of processing violations for Police Department (one to two minutes per violation)

# Cost of the program 2013-2022



Total Reimbursed Administrative and Overhead costs since 2013:  
**\$526,574**

All Abington Township Expenses have been paid through June 2022

\*No Unexpected Costs have Occurred as a Result of the Red-Light Camera Program.

# Staffing



Program staffing consists of 1 civilian staff member and three (3) officers.

## Civilian Position (CP)

- Conducts the initial review, logs all viewed violations and sends reports to Officers
- Schedules hearings, Public Questions, Assist with record keeping

## Officer #1 (Traffic Safety Unit)

- Oversees Red-Light Program, completes all required reports, keeps stats, conducts reviews

## Officers #2 & 3 (Traffic Safety Unit)

- Conduct reviews of red-light violations

# Review Process



CP reviews violations for a day and sends TSU a report

One of the TSU Officers reviews the day and sends a report back

CP & TSU Officer log any changes on spread sheet

CP sends an end of the month report for PennDOT reports and Department Reports.

Violations are viewed from a website; each violation takes a minute or so to review. Officer approves or rejects the violation

Vendor sends out all notices to vehicle owners



# Fines



Red Light Camera fines are \$100

- Violations are civil not criminal
- No points
- Not reported to insurance

Payment options:

- online
- at APD
- mailed to Vendor

Twice a month, vendor "sweeps" fines to an account set up by Abington Township Finance Department

Abington Township is paid first for expenses to run the program

Vendor is then paid their monthly fee

# Education



Signs are required by PennDOT at intersections

Placed Sign Boards at different locations throughout the Township


Use TV, social media to remind drivers of locations

Facebook Chat: 10/19/17

Placed posters and trifold at Library, Hospitals, Local Courts, Food Stores, College Campus and local businesses

Met with local civic groups - important to explain the cameras are about safety - not money

Ongoing use of social media to educate citizens about the cameras and their locations.



**Date:** 23-05-2018    **Time:** 17:59:44.8    **Location:** NB York/Susqueha    **SerialNr:** 201602001088    **GATSO**

lane 4	lane 3	lane 2	lane 1	EventNr:	Lane:	Date:	Time:	Violation:	Speed:	Elapsed:
	0.00	0.00	0.00							
	0.00	0.66	0.66							
	0.00	46.00	46.00							
	0.66									
	46.00									



# Crash Stats Before and after the Cameras



	<b>Pre-Cameras</b> (August 2007-July 2014)	<b>Cameras</b> (August 2014- July 2021)	<b>Difference</b>
Total Crashes	262*	189*	<b>-28%</b>
Angle Crashes	86	65	<b>-25%</b>
Rear End Crashes	134	104	<b>-22%</b>
Injury Crashes	59	39	<b>-34%</b>

**\*(Crashes at all 3 red light camera intersections 7 years before and after the cameras)**

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## Public Perception

Most of the information available on red-light cameras indicates positive results regarding improving safety.

A 2015 study by the American Automobile Association (AAA) Foundation for Traffic Safety noted that 57 % of people surveyed were in favor of using ARLE on residential streets, and that 28 % strongly favored it.

# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## Estimated Implementation Costs

Based on industry standards initial costs are estimated to be \$5,000 per approach per month of an intersection (Typical configuration - 2 approaches - \$10,000 per month).

Revenue generated by violations will be applied first to cover the monthly cost. Any additional revenue will be divided between the Municipality and the system provider.



# AUTOMATED RED-LIGHT ENFORCEMENT (ARLE)

## Next Steps

Board of Commissioners provides feedback on whether LMT should proceed with implementation.

Evaluations to be completed on viable intersections.

- ARLE systems are not necessarily appropriate for all signalized intersections—only those intersections where documented red-light violations and/or crash problems exist.
- PennDOT has the final decision on installation locations.

# National Drug Take Back Initiative

**Saturday, April 27,  
2024**

from 10 am to 2 pm.

Lower Merion Police Dept. Lobby  
71 East. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore

