

**PRESS RELEASE**

December 21, 2018

**ESSEX COUNTY FREEHOLDERS APPROVE RESOLUTION REDUCING THE SPEED  
LIMIT OF PLEASANT VALLEY WAY IN WEST ORANGE**

(Newark, NJ) – During its Wednesday, December 19, 2018, meeting at the Hall of Records, the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, in a unanimous vote approved a Resolution consenting to the reduction of the speed limit on Pleasant Valley Way within the vicinity of West Orange High School and Kelly Elementary School, in West Orange. This Resolution coincides with the town’s recently adopted Ordinance passed on October 16, 2018, reducing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph.

Pleasant Valley Way, also known as County Route 636, is a high traffic arterial roadway under Essex County jurisdiction. The street stretches from open areas with little to no foot traffic, in the vicinity of Turtle Back Zoo and South Mountain Reservation, to a mixed residential, retail, and concentrated pedestrian environment that ends at the intersection of Bloomfield Avenue in Verona. With West Orange High School and Kelly Elementary school at the center of this corridor, the Board of Freeholders acted in accordance with the West Orange Town Council in an effort to protect county citizens from the dangers of high speed traffic accidents, while being in compliance with School Speed Zone limits.

Freeholder President Brendan W. Gill, along with the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, has prioritized addressing issues regarding transportation and pedestrian safety. The recent tragedies in Montclair, Millburn and throughout Essex County have garnered the Board’s focus and attention. As President Gill stated, “In light of the recent string of pedestrian accident fatalities throughout Essex County, the Board of Freeholders is prepared to enact any and all measures that can be taken to protect our citizens, especially children and young people, from the dangers of traffic accidents. Working with Mayor Parisi was a great experience. We will continue to keep lines of communication open on improving safety in our communities.”

“Road safety is one of the most important roles any township faces,” said Mayor Robert Parisi who stands in unison with the Board. “The decreased speed limit will give both motorists and pedestrians the opportunity to see each other and reduce accidents.”

Traffic safety has always been a hallmark of Freeholder President Gill’s public service agenda. In 2013, he sponsored a Resolution Establishing and Adopting an Essex County Complete Streets Policy. The Complete Streets Policy provides a comprehensive multi-modal network of transportation options to provide safe access for all users. The policy ensures all improvements ruminates the recommendations of Complete Streets first and consider connections for Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes to Transit, Transit Villages, as well as trail crossings and areas or population groups with limited transportation options.

The Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders will continue to treat the safety of Essex County citizens as a priority of the highest order.

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**For Additional Information:**

**Kyalo Mulumba, Public Information Officer  
Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
973-621-4452 (phone) 973-621-5695 (fax)  
[kmulumba@freeholders.essexcountynj.org](mailto:kmulumba@freeholders.essexcountynj.org)**

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