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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT CHANGE**

BEVERLY - Mayor Michael Cahill announced today that the default speed limit on City of Beverly streets will be reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph, unless otherwise posted, effective February 17, 2017.

A change in state law last summer provided cities and towns with more control over setting speed limits on local roads. The City Administration completed a thoughtful evaluation of these roads, and on February 6, 2017 the change was presented to the City Council and unanimously adopted. The new speed limit will not apply on roads or sections of road that already have different speed limits posted. In these instances, the posted speed limits will continue to be valid and will not be affected by this new law.

Mayor Michael Cahill said, "Thanks to the outstanding efforts of the Beverly Police Department, Department of Public Services, Engineering Department, Solicitor's Office and support from the City Council, the new default speed limit will improve safety for people walking, driving, and bicycling on city streets." Mayor Cahill continued. "We believe this change in our citywide speed limit will make every resident, employee, and visitor to Beverly safer throughout our community."

The Beverly Police Department will begin an educational campaign by issuing warnings to drivers who exceed this new limit. Officers will still use their discretion when dealing with egregious violations.

Beverly Police Chief John LeLacheur said, “The Beverly Police Department believes this change will help reduce speed in our most congested neighborhoods. Our goal is to reduce collisions and promote public safety. We need the community’s help with this goal.”

As part of its thorough review, the City Administration also evaluated all posted speed limits in the city and plans to apply to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to lower speed limits on several of these roads. This process is likely to take several months and will represent a second phase in this public safety effort.

*Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90 Section 17, 17C & 18*

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