



The Light is Red for a Reason

SO STOP!

What is red light running? A violation occurs when a motorist *deliberately* enters an intersection *after* the signal light has turned red. Motorists who are already in an intersection when the signal changes to red - while waiting to turn, for example - are not red light running so they are not ticketed.

Why use red light cameras not just more police? Cameras enhance existing Police effort round the clock and Police can't be everywhere at once. In Oxnard C.A., where red light cameras are in use, Police say it would take 12-15 more officers to have the same effect as one camera.

Traditional police enforcement also poses special difficulties and dangers for police who may have to follow violating vehicles through intersections during the red light which endangers them as well as other drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

Do red light cameras improve public safety? YES, they've been *proven* to reduce red light violations, intersection crashes and injuries. Violations usually fall by around 40 percent or more in the first year. In Oxnard, CA, they fell 42 percent in four months. In Fairfax VA, they dropped 44 percent in the first year, and also fell 34 percent at other non-camera intersections as motorists became generally aware of the need for safe driving. Records of accidents and serious injuries show falls of 10 percent or more.

In Scottsdale, AZ, after four years of photo enforcement, 70 percent of young drivers report driving more carefully than they would in other cities without traffic cameras.

Are they fair? YES. If you don't run the red light, you won't be photographed or fined.

The cameras *only start operating* after the light has turned red. Drivers who enter on yellow and are still in the intersection when the light changes to red aren't photographed. Most programs also require police to check and authorize every ticket before it is issued to confirm a genuine violation has occurred.

Do they unreasonably violate privacy? NO. Most people agree that driving on public roads should be a regulated activity not just a right. Neither law or common sense suggests that drivers should not be observed on the road or have their violations documented.

When citations are issued, the *only recognizable person in the photos* is the driver. Passengers' faces are carefully blocked out.

Does the American public support the use of red light cameras? YES. Two 1995 surveys for the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety revealed that 66 percent of people surveyed favored red light cameras compared with only 28 percent who opposed.

Support is highest - 80 percent or more - in large cities and in communities that already use the systems.

Redflex gratefully acknowledges information provided by the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety. Refer: www.highwaysafety.org/safety_facts

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