

### MYTHS    FACTS

**“Red light enforcement cameras and speed cameras are the same.”**

Red light cameras do not capture the speed of a vehicle. A red light camera (or red light enforcement camera) is a type of traffic enforcement camera that captures an image of a vehicle if it has entered an intersection in spite of the traffic signal indicating red/stop. By automatically photographing vehicles that run red lights (or fail to make a complete stop before making a right turn), the municipality secures evidence that assists authorities in their enforcement of traffic laws.

**The sole purpose of installing red light cameras is to generate revenue for municipalities.**

The first goal of a red light camera program is to improve public safety by reducing injuries and deaths caused by accidents.

**Red light camera violations are considered “moving violations” that will affect a person’s driving record.**

Violations are considered “non-moving violations” and do not affect a person’s driving record.

**Making a rolling “hollywood” stop, as a driver checks for oncoming vehicles before turning right on a red light, is a violation in the eyes of a red light camera.**

A driver may be cited with a violation if he or she fails to bring the vehicle to a complete stop (tires not rolling) before turning right on red (where permissible). However, this depends entirely on each municipality’s standard.

**If the driver enters the intersection when the light is green or yellow, a red light camera violation will be issued.**

If a driver enters the intersection when the light is green or yellow, that driver will NOT receive a “Notice of Violation.” It is legal to clear the intersection if one is already in the intersection when the light turns red.

**All red light photo enforcement systems are owned and operated by the same company.**

No. There are several companies that provide red light running photo enforcement systems across the United States and internationally. Each company operates independent of each other and all contracts with municipalities are tailored to the requests and operational needs of the municipality.

**Red light cameras increase car crashes across the board.**

The Cochrane Collaboration, an international public health organization, reviewed 10 controlled before/after studies of red light camera effectiveness. Based on the most rigorous studies, there was an estimated 13-29 percent reduction in all types of injury crashes and a 24 percent reduction in right-angle injury crashes where automated photo enforcement was used. The review did not find a statistically significant change in rear-end injury crashes.

**If a driver stops his or her vehicle past the white stop bar he or she will receive a violation notice.**

No. As of January 2011, the Illinois legislature passed a bill that precludes any municipality from issuing a citation if a vehicle comes to a complete stop even if that stop is after the white stop bar.

**Photos or video of red light violations are only reviewed by local law enforcement before a ticket is issued.**

Generally technicians examine the footage first for image clarity and accuracy. All violations related to emergency vehicles, funeral processions, marked police vehicles and vehicles that come to complete stops before making right turns or which clear intersections lawfully are removed. From there the remaining possible violations are then sent to local law enforcement personnel for review.

**Red light cameras capture evidence of every vehicle that passes through an intersection.**

Red light cameras only capture hi-resolution photographs of vehicles that blatantly run red lights.

Photographs are not taken of:

- Vehicles stopped at stop lines, crosswalks, or edges of intersections
- Vehicles that stop at intersections, then legally turn right (or left onto one-way streets)
- Vehicles in intersections after the light has turned red that are completing intersection traversal or making left turns
- Vehicles that enter intersections yielding to emergency vehicles or funeral processions.



# 10 YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RED LIGHT FACTS CAMERAS AND DRIVING SAFETY

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Red light cameras save lives

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Red light cameras help reduce the number of injury-related car crashes at intersections

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Red light cameras are ONLY a cost to those who break the law

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Red light cameras help reinforce safe driver behavior

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Motorists are more likely to be injured in urban crashes involving red light running than in any other type of motor vehicle accident

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Red light cameras allow police officers more time for community policing

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Red light cameras help reduce fatalities at high crash intersections

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Before a violation is issued and mailed out, video of the possible violation has been reviewed by municipal law enforcement personnel and support technicians at least four times



**Q Why are red light cameras in your community?**

**A** Red light cameras save lives. They were installed to assist in preventing motorists from carelessly running red lights and therefore endangering their lives and the lives of those around them. When our municipality made the decision to install red light cameras, we informed residents when and where the cameras would be installed and continue to communicate with the community about the consequences if they choose to run a red light. If, after all our efforts, motorists still decide to run a red light, then they have chosen to break the law.

**Q How did you pick the sites for your cameras?**

**A** We carefully analyzed our high traffic intersections by monitoring the traffic patterns and realized there was a safety issue due to motorists running red lights. Point blank, running red lights does endanger the lives and safety of motorists and pedestrians. We, as law enforcement officials, can't be everywhere to monitor every high traffic intersection at all times. Therefore, we are using modern technology, by installing red light cameras, as one tool to help keep our intersections safe, while freeing up law enforcement for other duties.

**Q Why do you need red light cameras if you have traffic signals?**

**A** Red light cameras alone will not prevent an intersection crash. Nor will traffic signals. However, every effort should be made to lessen the likelihood of a crash. Red light cameras capture drivers running through traffic signals, in this case, red lights. Hopefully, the red light cameras will bring about awareness regarding safe driver behavior and have an impact on it.

**Q Did you install red light cameras to boost your revenues?**

**A** First of all, people who run red lights are breaking the law. No, not at all. It is our job to enforce the law. But unlike those who run red lights and are ticketed by police officers on the scene, those who receive violations through photo enforcement do so despite the fact that they thought they could get away with breaking the law. We will not let that happen. Our concern is and will always be about safety. Whether there is a camera or not, the driver needs to slow down and stop for a red light, they will be safer and the pedestrians will be safer, also.

