



Oakland Police Department

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City of Oakland Continues Nationwide Fight Against Red Light Running Effort to Eliminate “Most Dangerous” Collisions

It is the goal of the Oakland Police Department to continually improve the quality of law enforcement services provided to the community. In an ongoing effort to improve Police service and quality of life in an efficient manner, the Police Department has been incorporating new technology whenever possible.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), red light running causes approximately 260,000 accidents each year, and the numbers are rising. The City of Oakland has seen an increase in the number of collisions involving a red light violation.

On August 29, 2009 the City of Oakland will add an additional intersection to the Red Light Camera Enforcement System (RLCES) in an effort to reduce red-light related accidents. The fourth intersection to be equipped with the red-light camera system is High St. and Foothill Bl. The system will capture red-light violations and warning notices will be mailed to violators for 30 days. After the 30 day warning period, starting September 29, 2009, citations will be issued for red light violations. Every intersection being monitored by the automated red-light camera system will be marked by an advisory street sign, notifying approaching traffic the intersection is being monitored.

Eventually, twenty intersection approaches throughout the city will be monitored by automated red-light cameras.

The City utilizes the service of Redflex Traffic Systems Inc, based in Scottsdale, Arizona. Redflex Traffic Systems provide and install camera equipment and software for the red-light camera enforcement program. Automated red-light safety enforcement programs using cameras have proven to be an effective tool in reducing red-light incidents and collisions caused by red-light violations. Currently, there are twenty-one states which have considered camera technology for enforcement and have either passed legislation or are considering legislation to enforce red-light violations with camera technology.

The Oakland Police Department manages and controls the Red-light program. An Oakland Police Department designee reviews and approves each citation that is issued. All violators will receive a citation with a copy of the photographs. A convicted red-light violation will have the penalty of 1 point on the offender's driving record. The Oakland Police Department will be issuing citations for “straight-thru,” left-turn and right-turn red-light violations. When a motorist makes a right-turn on a red-light and does not make a complete stop at the limit line prior to doing so, a red-light violation has occurred.

When a violation is captured, the cameras takes a total of four (4) photographs and a 12 second video of the violation (Citizens may notice several flashes in the intersection when the cameras are taking photographs of a violation). A "Notice to Appear" is mailed to the red-light offender. The left-hand side of the "Notice to Appear" includes the registered owner's information, date to appear in court and contact information. The right side has four pictures of the red-light incident. The first picture shows the vehicle behind the limit line when the light is red. The second picture shows the vehicle continuing through the intersection while the light is red. The third image shows the driver of the vehicle and the fourth photo (not shown) will show a close up of the rear license plate. Citizens receiving citations can view video of the violation on the Internet for 60 days from the date of the violation at www.photonotice.com.

Traffic School is available if the violator is eligible, and information can be obtained through the Alameda Superior Court at, 510.627.4701. If a violator has received a red-light citation and would like to see the video of the violation, they can call 510.777.8580 to schedule video viewings with a representative from the Oakland Police Department or you can log onto www.photonotice.com to view your violation. The violator will need the citation number, vehicle license plate, and the City of Oakland access code ("OKLDCA") to view the video online.

If you have any questions about the red-light camera system, please contact the Red Light Photo Enforcement Technician at 510.777.8580, or email Opd-rlces@oaklandnet.com.

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