



NEWSLETTER / PRESS RELEASE

From the Office of the Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 11, 2008

"Lowery Elated Over Success of Red Light Cameras"

Today, Mayor Robert G. Lowery, Sr. and Chief Bill Karabas announced that they are elated over the success of the five red light cameras located throughout Florissant. One light, in particular, has been in operation for a year. Records indicate that these cameras are exceeding expectations by saving lives and reducing traffic violations by 24%. This gives cause to substantiate that people are becoming more aware of and are increasingly obeying the traffic laws. As a result, during this period there have been no rear-end collisions. There is no doubt that red light cameras save lives and prevent accidents.

Furthermore, Mayor Lowery added that the Missouri General Assembly, including both the House and the Senate, suggested that the fines collected from the red light camera violations be either eliminated or be given to the school districts. Lowery is opposed to this idea, stating that there are cost factors, including clerical staff and police salaries, that are associated with processing the violations and issuing summonses. Monies from the collection of fines can be used by municipalities to decrease violent crime, which studies show rises with the increase of those in the 18-24 age bracket. Accordingly, Lowery gives credence to studies that confirm that strict traffic enforcement reduces crime.

Mayor Lowery stressed that although the General Assembly has proposed this legislation with the best of intentions, the monies from the red light cameras are vital to local communities for police protection and equipment to keep the crime rate down, including rape and murder. He hopes the state representatives will change their mind. Lowery stated that he realizes the importance of education and has served as the Chairman of several bond issues for the Hazelwood School District but he feels that the school districts have more than sufficient funds.

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