

RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT



Lower Merion Township's state-of-the-art red light enforcement system will help make our community safer.



IT'S SIMPLE Photo Enforcement Works

Enforcement cameras modify driver behavior and in turn, reduce the number of accidents. Together, we can make this program a success in Lower Merion Township.



Is "red light running" really that big of a problem?

Yes. Red light runners cause hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, annually over 700 people are killed and an estimated 118,000 are injured in crashes that involved red light running. What's worse, more than half of the deaths in red light running crashes are not the red light runners, but instead are the pedestrians, bicyclists, and occupants in the "other vehicles" who are hit by the red light runners.

Where are the intersections?

- Lancaster Avenue @ Remington Road

How were these intersections chosen?

Based on the number of violations, the number of accidents (especially accidents with injuries) and the difficulty to effectively and SAFELY do "traditional enforcement" at these intersections.

Can the red light traffic cameras really help?

Across the country, cameras have been shown to substantially reduce violations, decrease the number of crashes and injuries, and improve driver behavior. Interestingly, because the red light cameras raised the consciousness of the drivers in the communities with the red light cameras, these positive outcomes were achieved even at locations other than the intersections with the red light cameras!

What else can we expect from the photo enforcement camera system?

In addition to making drivers more vigilant and making our most dangerous intersections safer, the red light cameras allow the police to focus their time on other activities, including crime prevention and responding to traffic complaints in the residential neighborhoods.

Does someone double-check the photographs before drivers are ticketed?

Yes. Trained police officers review every picture to verify vehicle information and ensure the vehicle is in violation. Violations are mailed to vehicle owners only in cases where it is clear the vehicle ran a red light. A red light violation occurs when the vehicle is clearly behind the stop line, the traffic light is red and the vehicle continues through the intersection while the traffic light is red.



How much will it cost? Can we afford this?

There is no cost to our community for installing, operating, or maintaining the system. All equipment and personnel costs directly related to the program will be funded by violators.

Is this just a way for Lower Merion Township to make money?

No. Unlike many other camera programs, Lower Merion Township gets no revenue from this program (although we are allowed to recoup actual equipment and personnel expenses related directly to the program.)

Then why are we implementing this program?

There are two primary reasons for this program. **SAFETY AND SAFETY!** Objective research indicates that the red light cameras will make these three intersections safer for Lower Merion Township residents, their families, and for all who drive through Lower Merion Township.

So the goal is to "catch" a lot of violators?

No, because we get no additional revenues from the program, we have no incentive to just catch violators. Our main objective is to reduce accidents, and especially accidents with injuries, by deterring violators and reducing the number of red light violations, not just catching the violators after the fact.

Will people know when those intersections are coming up?

Yes, signs will be posted at every intersection warning drivers that ahead, photo enforcement is in use.

Do red light cameras have a positive track record?

Yes. Cameras are already used for law enforcement in many major U.S. cities as well as other towns, counties and communities of all sizes. Over 500 communities use the cameras for enforcement.

Aren't red light traffic cameras controversial?


Some Red Light Camera programs have been controversial because of how they were implemented or administered. But because Lower Merion Township receives none of the fines, Lower Merion Township has no "profit motive." As a result, citizens can be assured that Lower Merion Township will administer it properly and for the right reason - the safety of our citizens. And there is certainly no controversy about making the most dangerous locations in our community safer, especially when it is being done at no cost to Lower Merion Township taxpayers!

Can I challenge my citation?

Yes. Each ticket contains a Contest section with a list of Valid Defenses, including vehicle owners who were not driving at the time of infraction, or had reported their vehicle stolen or sold, or were part of a funeral procession. Check the back of the citation for specifics regarding this challenge process.

Red Light Camera Locations

Lancaster Avenue @ Remington Road



For more information contact the Lower Merion Township Police Department.

Lower Merion Township Police Department
71 E. Lancaster Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003