



City of Gainesville

Text File

City Hall
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

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Status: Held In Commission

..Title

Request from Sarasota County Regarding Red Light Camera Legislative Support (B)

..Explanation

The City Manager has received a request from Sarasota County for the City Commission to support and endorse a Resolution concerning red light cameras.

..Recommendation

The City Commission support the Resolution and convey that support to the Alachua County delegation.



SARASOTA COUNTY
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1660 Ringling Boulevard
 Sarasota, Florida 34236
 Telephone 941-861-5344
 Fax 941-861-5987

SEP 26 2005

September 20, 2005

The Sarasota Board of County Commissioners unanimously passed the enclosed resolution (2005 – 197), "Green Light for Red Light Cameras" on Sept. 14, 2005.

On behalf of the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners, we are sharing our resolution with you and encourage the elected leadership of your community to actively endorse and support this resolution or one similar to it; joining with us in the creation of a "Green Light for Red Light Cameras" coalition.

Local governments cannot now use cameras to document and issue citations to drivers who run red lights because of antiquated language in the Uniform Traffic Code. Existing language states that citations can be issued when an officer "observes the commission of a traffic infraction."

Technological innovations have improved numerous aspects of public safety:

- Camera security for buildings
- Traffic signal management for emergency vehicles
- Intersection cameras to optimize traffic flows

Cameras already are used to catch lawbreakers if a driver attempts to leave a Florida Toll Facility without paying the toll. Cameras record the incident and a ticket is issued to the vehicle's owner. Local governments simply seek the same authority.

While the cost of public safety is increasing, it's wise and logical to allow local governments to use cameras to issue citations for red light running. Traffic cameras have the potential to improve driver safety and better utilize law enforcement personnel – if the code language allows it.

The Sarasota Board of County Commissioners believes that the collective voice of local governments can change an outdated code. We urge you to support the attached "Green Light for Red Light Cameras" resolution and forward your endorsement directly to your legislative delegation. If you would, please provide us with a copy.

Sincerely,

PAUL H. MERCIER, C.C.C.
 Chairman, Sarasota County Commission

- c: Honorable Members, Sarasota County Commission
 Honorable Welton Cadwell, President, Florida Association of Counties
 Honorable Clay Ford, President, Florida League of Cities



Green Light for Red Light Cameras

Resolution #2005 - 197

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

RE: Support for Use of Red Light Cameras

Whereas, entering an intersection after the light has turned red, or "red light running" is one of the major causes of crashes, deaths, and injuries at signalized intersections; and

Whereas, the monetary impact of crashes to our society is approximately \$14 billion annually; and

Whereas, numerous studies illustrate that the use of red light cameras to issue traffic citations reduces crashes in signalized intersections; and

Whereas, the Federal Highway Administration promotes red light cameras as a viable strategy to reduce red light running and the resulting loss of life or injury; and

Whereas, local governments are responsible for citizen safety generally, and traffic safety and enforcement specifically; and

Whereas, local governments should be able to protect their citizens – using technology and their home rule authority, and use red light cameras at signalized intersections to issue traffic citations; and

Whereas, local government efforts to install red light cameras at intersections have been stymied by legal determinations that such cameras cannot be used to issue traffic citations; and

Whereas, despite strong local government support, bills introduced in the legislature to authorize the use of red light cameras for traffic safety by local governments has not been enacted; and

Whereas, as loss of life and injury are occurring each day as a result of red light running, local governments can collaborate about the urgency and importance of this issue to the State Legislature.



Green Light for Red Light Cameras

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Support the use of red light cameras at selected signalized intersections to reduce crashes that result in the loss of life and injury.

SECTION 2. Urge the State Legislature to enact a law allowing local governments to protect their citizens by using red light cameras at signalized intersections to issue traffic citations and thereby encourage driving safety.

SECTION 3. Recognize the value of a coalition, of county and municipal governments, to urge immediate action by the Legislature to change the law, to prevent further loss of life and injury to our citizens.

SECTION 4. Urge all 67 counties and 410 municipalities to join us in creating a Green Light for Red Light Camera Enforcement Coalition to demonstrate local governments' strong support for the enactment of legislation authorizing the use of red light cameras at signalized intersections.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA, this 14th day of September, 2005.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

by: Paul H. Mercier
Chairman

ATTEST: _____

**KAREN E. RUSHING, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Ex-Officio Clerk
of the Board of County Commissioners
of Sarasota County, Florida**

by: _____
Deputy Clerk