

George Finn

To: 'yvonne.capin@tampagov.net'
Subject: Redemption For Tampa's Red Light Camera Program

Honorable Yvonne Capin
Council Member
315 E Kennedy Blvd
Tampa, FL 33602

September 17, 2016

Dear Councilmember Capin,

Our condolences for the recent red light camera vote.

Cheer up. While the battle is lost the war may still be won. That is, if it is possible for the dissenting council members to convince one of others to restrict how the revenue from this program is to be spent.

Your Argument: *“Diverting red light camera revenue toward any purpose -other than curing red light running- may be seen as #PerpetuatingDeath4Dollars. A conscious decision to do that may be seen as violating our fiduciary responsibility and may put our constituents at substantial risk of liability (should injury or death occur under our watch in the future). If safety is the primary purpose of this program, then conscience dictates: 100% of that revenue must be used to find a cure to red light running through scientific study of this question.*

➤ ***What aid to navigation do drivers need -at the onset of yellow light- which helps them more precisely, safely and confidently make the life vs. death decision (to either stop or go) without violating the red? “***

Why are aids to navigation more effective than cameras at preventing violations of the law?

Cameras only operate after a violation has occurred. Effective Aids to Navigation (ATN) preempts the violation from ever occurring because they enable drivers -in advance- to make safer decisions at specific and clearly identifiable decision points. ATN's give drivers a fair chance. (See: *Lane Marker Example at CivilLiberty101.com*)

Considering AAA's most recently released Traffic Safety Culture Index ⁽¹⁾ 94% of Americans want to obey the law and 73% feel very strongly about doing so. Why then do (35.6%) of this group have difficulty obeying the law and why do (22.7%) have repeated difficulty? Is it because they are criminals? Or is it because our system is broken or perhaps they simply need more help in making the decision (to stop or go) less ambiguous?

Draconian Enforcement –The last resort: Red light cameras effectiveness solely rests on their ability to lay blame and induce draconian fear into our society. *(This explains increases in rear end collisions at red light camera installations).* Such tactics should be the last resort of a free society and Aids to Navigation should be the first.

This may be your last chance to redeem red light cameras (RLC): Restricting the use of RLC revenue to scientific study designed to cure red light running is more than a fiduciary responsibility, it is a matter of integrity and conscience. The relevant question to the council is: How does your conscience lead you?

Our unaffiliated contacts at North Eastern University can help you find experienced & interested scientists.

Semper pro Populus
George Finn

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1) <https://www.aaafoundation.org/sites/default/files/2014TSCReport.pdf> (Pg 11“Attitudes and behavior: Red-light running”)