



# JACKSONVILLE'S RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



## SOLUTION OVERVIEW:

Redflex, a leading provider of road safety technology with 25+ years of experience, operates more than 2,000 photo enforcement systems in more than 220 communities throughout the U.S. and Canada. They have been selected by the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office as the vendor for the program.

## HOW IT WORKS:

- (1) A camera system is installed to monitor approaching traffic at an intersection. It's triggered to capture data of a vehicle if it progresses through an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red. Crossing the "plane of the intersection", or the white line in front of the crosswalk, constitutes an infraction.
- (2) Evidence of violations, including high-resolution images, are encrypted and secured at the time of capture by the local system. There are no images of a driver's face being photographed (Registered owners of vehicles are reminded that they are responsible if someone driving his/her car violates the law).
- (3) Following a comprehensive review process, secure evidence packages are electronically submitted to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office to determine whether a Notice of Violation is warranted. Each potential infraction is personally reviewed by a sworn police officer.
- (4) Once the sworn police officer confirms an infraction occurred a Notice of Violation is mailed to the violator with a web address to view both a video and still photographs of the infraction.

## SAFETY BENEFITS:

- **Deterrent:** Red light cameras serve as 24/7 deterrents to breaking the law. The presence of the system causes drivers to think twice before running a light.
- **Police Force Multiplier:** Cameras allow police officers to refocus their energies on other high-priority tasks while still ensuring the safety of intersections.
- **Automation:** Violations are automatically detected – no action is required by a police officer at the scene. However, an officer has the right to pull you over any time an infraction is viewed.
- **Risk Management:** The purpose of red light cameras is to help prevent crashes at intersections that are caused by running a red light, which then causes traffic delays, requires police, fire and EMT resources, causes property damage, and – worst of all – can result in the loss of life.
- **Community Awareness:** Photo enforcement increases awareness about traffic safety in our community. Red light cameras spark a vital community conversation about mindful driving and the consequences of risky maneuvers.

## JACKSONVILLE'S PROGRAM:

- Red light cameras currently monitor more than 40 approaches. (December 2015)



Camera locations can be found on the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Website, <http://www.jaxsheriff.org/departments/sheriff-s-office/patrol-division/jacksonville-s-red-light-enforcement-program.aspx>



- The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office conducted traffic studies to determine which intersections would benefit most from red light cameras. These intersections had a high rate of crashes.
- As cameras become operational, there will be a 30 day grace period for each approach. During this time, data of red light running incidents will be captured, but a warning letter, not a Notice of Violation, will be issued during this period. After the 30 day warning period for a newly activated camera, a Notice of Violation will be issued (Uniform Traffic Citations will be issued on any unpaid Notice of Violation after 60 days, if a hearing is not requested).
- The fine for a red light camera infraction is \$158. The vehicle's owner is issued a Notice of Violation as a result of an infraction captured by camera. The cost of a Uniform Traffic Citation (UTC) is \$262 if issued by an Officer, or if the Notice of Violation goes unpaid or uncontested and becomes a Uniform Traffic Citation.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

In accordance with statutory obligations, the Jacksonville Red Light Camera Initial Safety Survey was conducted prior to the implementation of the program in January 2013. It captured insights into the opinions of residents when it comes to red light running:

- Nearly half of respondents say they see vehicles run red lights daily in Jacksonville; 75% say they see red light runners at least once a week.
- More than half of respondents say red light running is a "very big" or "big" problem in Jacksonville.
- Over the last few years, 42% say the problem has gotten worse, and 41% say it has remained the same. Only 6% say it has gotten better.
- 43% of respondents say red light cameras will change the way they drive.
- After being informed how the red light camera program will operate in Jacksonville, 67% of respondents supported it.
- When informed that red light cameras can reduce vehicle crashes by as much as 40%, support for their use increased from 6% to 73%.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety released a study in 2011 confirming a **24% REDUCTION** in fatalities across **14 U.S. CITIES** with red light camera programs operating from 2004 to 2008.

Out of the **FLORIDA JURISDICTIONS** using red light camera technology (**73**), a recent survey showed **56% CITE A REDUCTION** in crashes at intersections.\*

\*SOURCE: DAVIS, BRITTANY ALANA. "STATE REPORT: CRASHES DOWN AT INTERSECTIONS WITH RED-LIGHT CAMERAS" , TAMPA BAY TIMES, 4 JAN 2013.

JACKSONVILLE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 501 E. BAY STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

EMERGENCY #: 9-1-1 NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER: (904) 630-0500

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**The camera takes a picture of the vehicle/tag NOT THE DRIVER.** – The camera takes a picture *of the vehicle*; there is video of 6 seconds before the infraction occurs and 6 seconds after, but there is NO picture or video of the driver.



**I can contest the Notice of Violation (NOV).** – Yes. There is “due process.”

After the infraction is confirmed by a sworn police officer, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is mailed via USPS to the registered owner of the vehicle (There is a website address where you can view the video and see the pictures of the vehicle crossing into or being in the intersection illegally after the traffic light has changed to red. This is in the NOV packet mailed to the vehicle owner).

If you want to contest the Notice of Violation, when you receive a NOV you should immediately CONTEST that violation by following the instructions for obtaining a date to go before a hearing officer, also in the packet.

**This is not an attempt to raise money for the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office.** – The \$158 fee for the Notice of Violation is set by Florida Statute and NOT controlled by the city. It is the same everywhere in the state. If you are NOT contesting the Notice of Violation, it is recommended that you make payment within the 60 days allotted, so you don’t receive a Uniform Traffic Citation, which carries greater penalties. The Notice of Violation penalty fee is shared by the city, state, provider trauma centers....not JSO.

**No Points are associated with a Red Light Camera Violation.** – The Notice of Violation (NOV), approved and issued by a sworn police officer at the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, is a civil infraction. If the NOV is not paid and becomes a Uniform Traffic Citation it will show up on the vehicle owner’s record, but no points are ever assessed.

**I have to pay for the Notice of Violation, even if someone else was driving my car at the time.** – You are responsible for your vehicle and anyone who uses it...*UNLESS you contest the Notice of Violation (NOV) and fill out the affidavit provided with the NOV. Please follow the instructions on the affidavit for naming a different driver for this violation.*

**Public notification for each site is made on JSO’s website and social media channels.** - The Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (JSO) provides the latest information about each approach on the “Respect the Red” page at [www.jaxsheriff.org](http://www.jaxsheriff.org). In addition, information is posted on JSO’s Facebook ([facebook.com/JacksonvilleSheriffsOffice](https://facebook.com/JacksonvilleSheriffsOffice)) and Twitter ([twitter.com/JSOPIO](https://twitter.com/JSOPIO)) accounts. Also, the Department of Transportation has posted signs at each location, AND the JSO will continue to work with the news outlets to get the word out when any changes to the program occur.

**There will be no Notice of Violations issued for 30 days after a camera goes on line.** – For the first 30 days after an intersection approach with a red light camera begins operation, there will be a WARNING of Notice of Violation issued. This warning carries no fine. This grace period is provided for by law.