



## Red-Light Safety Camera Program FAQs

### *Why has the City of Opelika implemented a Red-Light Safety Camera Program?*

The City of Opelika is committed to the safety of the community and dedicated to reducing red-light violations and their potential for crashes and injuries on our roadways. In order to do so, Opelika implemented a red-light safety camera program in February 2013. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, from 2007-2011, 89 Alabamans lost their lives making Alabama one of the most deadly states in the nation for red-light running fatalities.

Red-light running is a deadly epidemic. Red-light safety camera programs have proven to reduce the number of red-light running collisions and their associated injuries and fatalities. Nearly 700 communities in the United States are now using cameras to deter red-light running.

Public safety is the highest priority of the Opelika Police Department and we believe the red-light safety cameras program will help make our roadways safer for both residents and visitors of our community. These cameras are another way our Department is using technology to improve public safety.

### *What is a red-light running violation?*

A red-light running violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red. Motorists already in the intersection when the signal changes to red, waiting to turn for example, are not considered red-light violators.

Right Turn: A red-light violation occurs if the motorist did not come to a full complete stop on a right hand turn

### *Where are the red-light safety cameras located?*

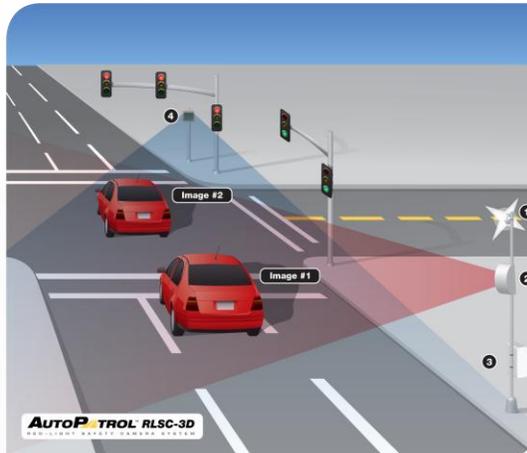
The intersections utilizing red-light safety technology are listed below. Each intersection is marked clearly with signs.

- Frederick Road @ US 280/Gateway Drive
- US 280/Gateway Drive @ HWY 15/Pepperell Parkway
- US 280/Gateway Drive @ I-85 Offramp/Interstate Drive
- HWY 15/West Point Parkway @ US 431/Fox Run Parkway/Lafayette Parkway

## How does the red-light safety camera work?

### HOW IT WORKS

- The system activates when motion is detected just prior to the crosswalk AFTER the traffic signal has turned red. The cameras capture two images of an alleged violation, taken from the rear of the vehicle.
- The first image shows the vehicle at the white stop bar and the illuminated red light.
- The second image shows the violator in the middle of the intersection with the red light illuminated.
- The license plate image is a close-up from one of the images captured.
- Data, including the time, date, and duration of the yellow and red lights, also is recorded.
- Cameras also record a 12-second digital video of the violation, including six seconds prior to and six seconds after running the red light.



- 1 Strobe
- 2 Camera
- 3 Controller
- 4 3D Radar

**Image #1** The 1<sup>st</sup> Image records the vehicle behind the violation point while the light is red

**Image #2** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Image records the vehicle proceeding through the intersection while the light is red

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## What to do if you receive a Notice of Violation

### *Why did I receive this Notice of Violation?*

Based upon images captured by the automated system, your vehicle was determined to have committed a red-light violation. As the vehicle owner, the Notice of Violation is mailed to you.

### *How much is the fine and what about my driving record?*

Violations will be assessed a \$60 statutory penalty and no points will be assessed.

### *When is my payment due?*

You must pay the civil penalty on or before the due date on your Notice of Violation. The due date for payment is located on the top and bottom right of your Notice of Violation.

Failure to pay or contest by the due date is an admission of liability. Failure to respond to this notice or request a hearing before the due date found on the front of this Notice of Violation may result in an additional \$25.00 penalty being assessed.

### *What are my options?*

There are multiple ways to pay your fine:

1.

**PAY ONLINE:** The fastest and easiest way to pay your Notice is to pay online. Go to [www.ViolationInfo.com](http://www.ViolationInfo.com) and logon with your Notice # and PIN shown in the red box on the front of this notice. Click the Pay button. There is a \$4 convenience fee.

**PAYMENT BY MAIL:** Mail your CASHIERS check or money order (payable to the City of Opelika) in the enclosed envelope with the coupon printed at the bottom of the reverse side of this notice. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.** Be sure to put the Notice # on the face of your payment. Your payment must be received on or before the due date shown on the front of this Notice of Violation.

**PAYMENT BY PHONE:** Call Toll Free at: 1-866-790-4111 between 8:00AM and 5:00PM EST. There is a \$4 convenience fee.

The image shows two parts: a login interface and a sample notice document. The login interface at the top has the 'ViolationInfo' logo and 'LOGIN' text. It contains input fields for 'NOTICE #' and 'PIN', with 'Cancel' and 'Login' buttons below. Below this is a text box stating: 'You can find this information in the top right corner of your notice, inside the red square as shown below:'. The sample notice document below shows a 'NOTICE OF VIOLATION' from the 'My City Intersection Safety Program'. A red square highlights the 'NOTICE #' and 'PIN' information in the top right corner, with a yellow arrow pointing to it.

## TO CONTEST THIS VIOLATION:

### 1. Request a hearing

You have the right to contest the imposition of the civil penalty in municipal court. If you would like to request a hearing sign the coupon below and mail it in the enclosed envelope to the address on the front of this notice. You will receive a hearing notification in the mail that will include the date, time and location of your hearing. If you fail to attend your hearing you will be found liable and will be responsible for the fine and any additional penalties. If you choose to pay the fine before your hearing date you do not need to attend the hearing.

### Submit an Affidavit of Non-Responsibility.

The owner of the vehicle shall be responsible for this Notice of Violation except where evidence can be provided that the vehicle was in a funeral procession, the registered owner is deceased, a DMV error occurred, the vehicle was sold, stolen or a ticket was issued by the Police Department for the same violation.

The affidavit should be mailed to:  
Violation Processing Center, P.O. Box 22091,  
Tempe, Arizona 85285-2091.

Supporting documentation must be included. Affidavits are available online at [www.ViolationInfo.com](http://www.ViolationInfo.com). You will need your Notice # and PIN printed on the front of your notice.

### *Will the red-light safety cameras take a picture of the driver of the vehicle?*

No. Similar to a parking ticket, there is no need to identify the driver and therefore, no need to capture an image of the driver.

The recorded images and video will be submitted as evidence in the municipal court proceeding for prosecution of the violation. You may view your images online at **[www.ViolationInfo.com](http://www.ViolationInfo.com)**. You will need your Notice # and PIN printed on the front of this notice.

### *Why does the camera flash when no one actually runs the red light?*

Occasionally, a vehicle may trigger one of the two cameras when coming to a rapid stop, yet not entering the intersection. Additionally, a vehicle may approach the intersection but only slow, rather than stop, before continuing to turn, triggering the road safety program and causing the flash to discharge.

Importantly, all flash incidents do not equate to a citation. Our police department will review each violation event captured by the red-light safety camera and make a final determination about issuance of a citation.

### *How do I know that these violations are valid?*

Images of your vehicle were captured and recorded by a Road Safety Program. You can review your images and video of the actual occurrence online at [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com). The images and video were reviewed by several qualified technicians and finally by the Opelika Police Department before the alleged civil violation was affirmed and mailed to you as the registered owner.

### *Have Questions?*

If you have any questions about the instructions on your Notice of Violation, please contact Customer Service at **1-866-790-4111** between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. You can also visit: [www.violationinfo.com](http://www.violationinfo.com).

Si necesitas ayuda en Español, favor de llamar al 1-866-790-4111.

### *What company provides the intersection safety camera program in Opelika?*

The City of Opelika has contracted with American Traffic Solutions Inc. (ATS) which provides red-light and speed camera enforcement programs for more than 300 communities across North America. More information about ATS is available at [www.atsol.com](http://www.atsol.com).

### *The Value of Red-light safety cameras*

Data from other cities across the country and multiple research studies have proven that red-light safety cameras decrease accidents— in particular, the numbers of side or T-bone crashes which cause the most fatalities and serious injuries.

- In 2010, 667 people were killed and more than 100,000 were injured in intersection crashes. \*\*
- Two-thirds of the people that die in red light crashes are people other than the violator. \*
- Motorists are more likely to be injured in a red-light running crash than any other type of collision.\*
- An average of nearly 63 people (62.5) died in red-light running crashes every month for the past five years, 2007-2011.
- Cameras change drivers' behavior: Nationally, there were 520 fewer intersection fatalities in 2010 than in 2009, a 7.1% reduction, even though Americans drove 46 billion miles more in 2010 than in 2009.\*\*

### **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety**

In February 2012, the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety published research that confirmed what many of us already knew—red-light safety cameras save lives.

- Red-light cameras saved 159 lives in 2004-08 in 14 of the biggest US cities, a new analysis by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows.

- Had cameras been operating during that period in all large cities, a total of 815 deaths would have been prevented.
- The researchers found that in the 14 cities that had cameras during 2004-08, the combined per capita rate of fatal red light running crashes fell 35 percent, compared with 1992-96.
- The rate of all fatal crashes at intersections with signals — not just red light running crashes — fell 14 percent in the camera cities and crept up 2 percent in the non-camera cities. In the camera cities, there were 17 percent fewer fatal crashes per capita at intersections with signals in 2004-08 than would have been expected.

To view additional studies and research from other cities across the country showing the change in driver behavior and reduction of collisions from their road safety camera program, go here: <http://www.atsol.com/media-center/studies-research/>

\* Insurance Institute for Highway Safety  
\*\* National Highway for Traffic Safety Administration  
\*\*\* Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Department Annual Reports  
\*\*\*\* ATS Reports