



NATIONAL MOTORISTS ASSOCIATION

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Traffic Ticket Camera Incidents Part 1

The Speedy Sensor

(July/Aug 2009 Driving Freedoms®)

The city of Scottsdale, AZ agreed to cancel speed camera fines issued to 589 innocent motorists. Between December 7, 2008 and January 4, 2009, a broken piezo sensor embedded in the pavement caused speed estimates to read high at the Shea Blvd camera located between 120th and 124th Streets.

Right Turn on Red Refund

(July/Aug 2009 Driving Freedoms®)

About 260 motorists wrongly accused of "red light running" in Corpus Christi, Texas had their citations canceled. After receiving numerous complaints from innocent drivers, the Gulf Coast city was forced to admit that the drivers had safely stopped when executing a legal right turn on red and should not have been ticketed by the machine located at the intersection of Cimarron and Yorktown.

More Tickets Issued than Residents

(compiled from accounts by The Columbus Dispatch)

Heath, Ohio, a community located 30 miles east of Columbus, installed traffic cameras on July 1, 2009, and by July 21, over 10,000 tickets were issued for a community with a population less than 9,000.

This would net the city more than \$830,000, and that is after paying the camera manufacturer, Redflex. By July 31, The Columbus Dispatch began reporting a series of stories about the Heath photo enforcement program and the swift public reaction.

When the first wave of tickets were mailed on July 21, many drivers began finding out for the first time that they had received multiple speeding tickets during those first three weeks of July. Heath Mayor Richard Waugh expects that as many as half of the July violations could be dismissed, with the recommendation from him and the city council that "compassion and discretion" be shown by the hearing officer. This did not stop opponents from submitting a petition to ban the traffic cameras, complete with 420 signatures, to the city council at their August 3 meeting. Only 193 signatures were required to place the issue on the November ballot.

Who Profits from These Cameras? The Answer May Surprise You

(excerpted from the Daily Herald, July 13, 2009)

Private camera companies that rent out red-light ticket cameras can land nearly as much from the fines as the local government. For example, in Roselle, IL where two cameras are up at Lake Street and Gary Avenue, nearly \$298,900 in fines were collected over nine months. Of that, \$117,333 went to the camera company, Redspeed, according to information culled from Freedom of Information requests by the Daily Herald.

Over a seven month period in Bensenville, IL, more than \$140,000 in fines were collected largely from three cameras, and \$89,639 went to the company.

When Ticket Cameras Go Wild

(July/Aug 2009 Driving Freedoms®)

In 2007, a red light camera in Capitola, CA generated \$381 tickets for motorists who did nothing wrong. The out-of-control camera was designed to ticket motorists headed to the local mall. Between 50 and 60% of the time the camera was triggered, there was no violation. In addition to other problems, the camera was generating tickets for shoppers making legal right turns on red and ticketing motorists who rolled forward before the light turned green.