

6. RED LIGHT CAMERAS

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**WHEREAS there are over 50,000 motor vehicle collisions at intersections throughout Ontario every year;**

**WHEREAS red light cameras can dramatically assist in reducing the number of injuries and deaths resulting from red light runners;**

**WHEREAS the installation of red light cameras at dangerous intersections has proven to be successful in Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Singapore and the U.K.;**

**WHEREAS there is a shortage of Police Officers;**

**WHEREAS the collisions at these intersections are resulting in serious injury to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists;**

**WHEREAS the provincial government has endorsed the use of a similar camera system to collect tolls on Highway 407;**

**WHEREAS mayors and concerned citizens across Ontario have been seeking permission to utilize red light cameras;**

**WE the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:**

**That the Government of Ontario support the installation of red light cameras at high collision intersections to monitor and prosecute owners of vehicles that run red lights.**

**DOCUMENTATION**

1. Extract of Minute, Transportation Committee 20 May 98 immediately follows the report and includes a record of the vote.
2. Dalton J.P. McGuinty, M.P.P. letter dated 27 April immediately follows the Extract of Minute.

Extract of Minute  
Transportation Committee  
20 May 1998

6. RED LIGHT CAMERAS

- letter dated 27 Apr 98 from D. McGuinty, MPP

*Terry Phillipe*, emphasized the importance of red light cameras to the safety of pedestrians crossing at high-volume intersections. She hoped this technology will be used as evidence against the motorists and suggested that any money generated from a conviction should be used to assist victims and their families.

The Committee Chair explained that a private members bill is being proposed that requires municipalities to use the fines collected to maintain the use of the cameras or to improve traffic safety at intersections.

Councillor Bellemare questioned who will be targeted at intersections with these devices - the driver or the owner of the vehicle and staff advised it will be the owner of the vehicle, with the fine to be collected in the same manner as a parking fine. The councillor suggested the Motion brought forward by Mr. McGuinty states otherwise and proposed to change the term "motorists" in the closing statement to "owners of vehicles" to ensure they can be prosecuted.

Councillor Bellemare further expressed some concern about the use of collected fines and the cost recovery program. D. Brousseau explained that one approach to installing these at no cost to the tax payer would be a cost sharing arrangement. Although this would generate a bit of revenue, once this process starts to work the revenue would drop off because there will not be as many people running red lights for fear of being caught. The Commissioner emphasized that the object of red light cameras is not to generate revenue, but to increase safety at intersections.

Moved by M. Bellemare

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**WHEREAS red light cameras can dramatically assist in reducing the number of injuries and deaths resulting from red light runners;**

**WHEREAS the installation of red light cameras at dangerous intersections has proven to be successful in Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Singapore and the U.K.;**

**WHEREAS there is a shortage of Police Officers;**

Extract of Minute  
Transportation Committee  
20 May 1998

**WHEREAS the collisions at these intersections are resulting in serious injury to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists;**

**WHEREAS the provincial government has endorsed the use of a similar camera system to collect tolls on Highway 407;**

**WHEREAS mayors and concerned citizens across Ontario have been seeking permission to utilize red light cameras;**

**WE the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:**

**That the Government of Ontario support the installation of red light cameras at high collision intersections to monitor and prosecute owners of vehicles that run red lights.**

CARRIED as amended

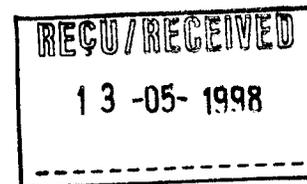
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**Dalton J.P. McGuinty, M.P.P. / député**  
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April 27, 1998



Dear Municipal Clerk/Administrator:

In an attempt to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from collisions caused by motorists running red lights, we are asking for your help.

The Harris government has refused to listen to the growing number of municipalities and individuals calling for the introduction of red light cameras at high collision intersections. It has refused to act in the interest of public safety.

The Ontario Liberal Caucus is not prepared to wait for the Premier to change his mind. Liberal MPP Mike Colle is preparing a Private Member's Bill which will be introduced in the Legislature. This Bill will give municipalities the ability to establish red light cameras.

By supporting our Bill, the government Members will show that they can listen to the people and that they are willing to act to make our roads safer.

We need your support.

Attached you will find a sample resolution that I wish you would bring forward at your next council meeting. Passing this resolution will illustrate your support for increased public safety by helping to decrease the number of unnecessary accidents at high collision intersections.

We ask that you take a minute to complete the questionnaire and fax it back to us along with comments and suggestions. Should council support our initiative, we would appreciate it if a copy of the resolution passed by council could be faxed as well. We will present the results to the Premier and Members of the Legislature.

Thank you for your assistance and we look forward to your responses.

Yours truly,

Dalton McGuinty, MPP  
Leader of the Official Opposition  
Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party

ADDITIONAL ITEM 9, TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE AGENDA OF 20 MAY 98

**'RED LIGHT CAMERAS':  
MAKING HIGH COLLISION INTERSECTIONS SAFER**

**Sample Resolution**

TO the Legislature of Ontario:

**WHEREAS** there are over 55,000 motor vehicle collisions at intersections throughout Ontario every year; and

**WHEREAS** red light cameras can dramatically assist in reducing the number of injuries and deaths resulting from red light runners; and

**WHEREAS** the installation of red light cameras at dangerous intersections has proven to be successful in Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Singapore and the U.K; and

**WHEREAS** there is a shortage of Police Officers; and

**WHEREAS** the collisions at these intersections are resulting in serious injury to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists; and

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Government has endorsed the use of a similar camera system to collect tolls on Highway 407; and

**WHEREAS** mayors and concerned citizens across Ontario have been seeking permission to utilize red light cameras;

**WE**, the undersigned, petition the Legislature of Ontario as follows:

**"That the Government of Ontario support the installation of red light cameras at high collision intersections to monitor and prosecute motorists who run red lights motorists who run red lights"**



**NEWS RELEASE / COMMUNIQUÉ**

**May 12, 1998**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LIBERAL MPP MIKE COLLE INTRODUCES PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL ALLOWING RED LIGHT CAMERAS**

QUEEN'S PARK - Today, Liberal MPP Mike Colle will be introducing his private member's bill allowing for the use of red light cameras at intersections to deter motorists from running red lights.

"High-collision intersections across the province have been the sites of an increasing number of accidents but the government continues to refuse to install red light cameras to prevent motorists from running red lights and help save lives," said Colle.

Colle's private member's bill titled, *An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act to improve Safety at Highway Intersections by providing for the installation and use of Red Light Cameras*, allows municipalities to install red light cameras at intersections and to collect fines from the convictions of red light runners.

The bill also requires that the municipalities must use the fines collected for the purpose of maintaining the red light cameras or for improving traffic safety at intersections such as the installation of traffic signs or public education programs.

Colle hopes that by putting forward this bill the government will start to listen to the overwhelming majority of motorists and municipalities who support red light cameras. "Last year in the GTA alone, sixteen people died as a result of red light runners and police records show a 30 per cent increase in red light offences over the past three years. Nevertheless, the government continues to ignore this growing epidemic," said Colle.

Colle said red light camera technology is used in over 75 countries around the world and has been proven to save lives with over a 30 per cent reduction in collisions.

"The stalling and excuses by the Harris government have gone on for too long," said Colle. "It's time to put safety first and to act on this critical public safety issue."

"Hopefully, this bill will be supported by members of all three parties who are concerned with this growing threat to safety on our streets," concluded Colle.

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Contact:

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Liberal Consumer Affairs Critic

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**Dalton McGuinty**  
**Leader of the Official Opposition**

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**Chef de l'opposition officielle**