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JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, COUNCIL

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Web Address: www.jeffco.org

The Honorable Sen. Ryan McKenna
201 W. Capitol Ave., Rm. 427
Jefferson City, MO 65101

January 24, 2011

Dear Senator McKenna,

We, the members of the Jefferson County Council, ask for your support regarding Senate Bill 16. SB 16, if enacted, would prohibit automated traffic enforcement systems across the State of Missouri.

Recently, the Missouri Department of Transportation released its figures on a study regarding red light cameras in the state. While MoDOT Director Kevin Keith was quoted as saying, "We believe automated enforcement is a good tool for keeping motorists safe", the results in Jefferson County do not corroborate his claim. According to MoDOT's statistics, the intersection of Richardson Road and Vogel Road in Arnold saw a 370% increase in accidents during the time red light cameras was installed. The only intersection in Jefferson County with cameras to see a decline was at Rockport Elementary School along Jeffco Blvd. Even then, the accidents decreased from 9 to 8 over the time the cameras were installed. All while over 8,000 violations were handed out at the four intersections with cameras last year alone.

There is also overwhelming statistical evidence that shows red light cameras are not the best method to make intersections safer. Many independent studies have shown that increasing yellow light times, full stops on red, or redesign of dangerous intersections have better results of reducing dangerous crashes than red light cameras. It is these engineering fixes which we believe municipalities should be working in concert with MoDOT to implement.

It is very clear that red light cameras have not had a positive effect on safety in Jefferson County, as the proponents of the system promised five years ago. This is not a political statement, but one of common sense based on the statistics that have been provided. Therefore, it is the intent of the Jefferson County Council to ensure that the State Laws regarding traffic enforcement currently in place are upheld and enforced, and that people of unincorporated Jefferson County are ensured their Due Process and Constitutional Rights.

January 24, 2011

Therefore, we request your support for SB 16, when it is heard by the Senate Committee for Jobs, Economic Development, and Local Government in the near future. Please represent the wishes of the Jefferson County Council, who represent the more-than 200,000 residents of our County, by supporting this bill, and assisting in its passage in the Senate.

Sincerely,



Bob Boyer, District 3



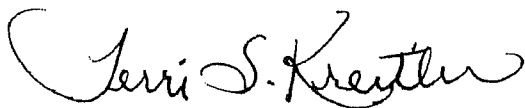
Don Bickowski, District 1



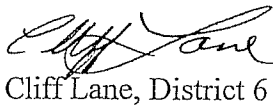
Renee Reuter, District 2



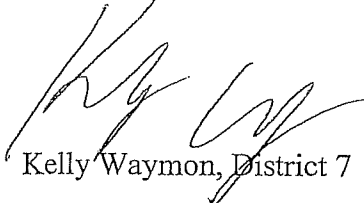
Charles Groetke, District 4



Terri Kreitler, District 5



Cliff Lane, District 6



Kelly Waymon, District 7

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CC: The Honorable Sen. Ron Richard (R-32nd)
The Honorable Sen. Jack Goodman (R-29th)
The Honorable Sen. Bob Dixon (R-30th)
The Honorable Sen. Jim Lembke (R-1st)
The Honorable Sen. Luann Ridgeway (R-17th)
The Honorable Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-15th)
The Honorable Sen. Victor Callahan (D-11th)
The Honorable Sen. Brian Nieves (R-26th)
The Honorable Sen. John Lamping (R-24th)
The Honorable Rep. Steven Tilley (R-106th), Speaker of the House
The Honorable Rep. Timothy Jones (R-89th), House Majority Floor Leader
The Honorable Sen. Robert Mayer (R-25th), President Pro-Tem
The Honorable Sen. Tom Dempsey (R-23rd), Senate Majority Floor Leader
The Honorable Rep. Timothy G. Meadows (D-101st)
The Honorable Rep. Paul Wieland (R-102nd)
The Honorable Rep. John C. McCaherty (R-90th)
The Honorable Rep. Ron Casey (D-103rd)
The Honorable Rep. Paul Curtman (R-105th)
The Honorable Rep. Ben Harris (D-110th)
The Honorable Kenneth B. Waller, Jefferson County Executive
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/ WrongOnRed.com, Editor (via e-mail)
/ Patch.com – Arnold, MO Editor (via e-mail)
/ Patch.com – High Ridge/Fenton, MO Editor (via e-mail)

Attachments:

Statistics Regarding Crashes at Intersections with Red Light Cameras – provided by the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Accident, Tickets Issued, & Fine Revenue Data provided by City of Arnold, MO.