

# Red Light Traffic Camera F.A.Q.

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## **Is “red light running” really that big a problem?**

In 2007, red light running led to 154,000 injuries and more than 900 deaths across the United States. Here, in Palm Bay, we had 407 red light violation citations issued last year.

## **How do red light traffic cameras help?**

Red light cameras will help us enforce traffic laws by automatically photographing vehicles whose drivers run red lights. The system continuously monitors the traffic signal, and the camera is triggered by any vehicle entering the intersection after the signal has turned red. Cameras record the date, time of day, time elapsed since the beginning of the red signal, vehicle speed and the vehicle’s license plate.

## **What constitutes a red light violation?**

A red light violation will occur once a vehicle enters into and proceeds through the intersection after the traffic light turns red. The intersection starts at the white stop bar. Right hand turns are permitted on red after coming to a complete stop.

## **Why can’t the police monitor intersections instead?**

We’re committed to keeping you and your neighbors safe, but no community can afford to police every red light intersection every hour of every day. The new cameras will help keep our roads safer and allow officers to spend more time protecting Palm Bay in other ways.

## **Which intersections will have red light cameras installed?**

Red light traffic cameras will be located at the intersections of Malabar & Minton, Malabar & Emerson, and Malabar & San Filippo.

## **What about privacy? Will drivers be photographed every time they go through an intersection?**

No. Cameras are set so that only the vehicle that enters an intersection after the light has turned red will be photographed. Drivers are not photographed.

## **Does someone double-check the photographs before vehicle owners are issued a citation?**

Yes. Trained police officers review every picture to verify vehicle information and ensure the vehicle was in violation of running a red light. Citations are mailed to the vehicle owner only in cases where it is clear to the police officer that the vehicle ran a red light.

## **What is the fine for running a red light?**

The fine for running a red light is \$158.00 per violation.

**How do I appeal a red light camera citation?**

Upon receiving the citation in the mail, the citation will provide information on initiating the appeal process by using a secured website. Upon requesting an appeal, the system self-generates a date and time for the hearing with the City of Palm Bay Traffic Magistrate.

**Where do the fines go?**

Citation revenue is distributed as follows – first, the City’s vendor, GATSO USA, receives \$30 for each collected fine; second, the City will receive funds to reimburse the City for the administrative overhead of the program; third, the Police Athletic League will be funded; fourth, the School Resource Officer program will be funded; and fifth, remaining proceeds will be shared between the Police Department’s traffic enforcement program including school crossing guards (not to exceed \$500,000) and the Public Works road program.

**If I still have question about the red light camera program, who can I call?**

You can call Leon Terkoski at the Palm Bay Police Department at 321-953-8903, or email at [terkol@pbfl.org](mailto:terkol@pbfl.org).