



National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Jeff Agnew
202-828-9100

Distracted Driving Leads to Many Red Light Running and Speeding Crashes

Cameras keep an eye on you, so you keep eyes on the road

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WASHINGTON, DC (September 30, 2009) — The Department of Transportation's Distracted Driving Summit that convenes today will direct attention to a deadly trend that directly contributes to red light running and speeding crashes. The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running joins other traffic safety leaders and initiatives in calling for a moratorium on all negligent driving habits.

But laws by themselves do not change driving behavior. Consistent enforcement holds drivers accountable for careless and irresponsible driving habits.

"The Campaign receives emails on a daily basis from survivors, or worse, family members of those who did not survive, detailing their stories – struck by a driver talking on their cell phone, sending a text message, rummaging through a bag, or changing the radio station," said Campaign Executive Director Leslie Blakey. "Photo enforcement helps people focus on the task at hand — driving."

In 2007, almost 900 people were killed and an estimated 153,000 were injured in crashes that involved red light running. Speeding was a factor in 32% of motor vehicle crash deaths in the U.S. that same year.

For people like Campaign National Survivor Spokesperson Ann Sweet, these statistics are more than numbers; they represent loved ones lost due to distracted driving. "My daughter, Shawnee, is no longer alive because of a distracted driver who ran a red light," said Sweet. "People often forget that taking your eyes off the road, even if only for a moment, can impact the lives of many. There was no attempt by the red light runner to even slow down before he crashed into Shawnee's car, killing her instantly."

The Campaign would like put an end to the avoidable deaths and injuries that plague our roads. Advanced technologies, such as photo enforcement cameras, provide a practical solution to helping end distracted driving.

Just today, Montgomery County, MD, announced that after one year, collisions near speed camera sites dropped by 28% and average speed decreased on roads with enforcement cameras. The full speed camera report can be viewed at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/olo.

The National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running is a national advocacy group guided by an independent advisory board that includes leaders from the fields of traffic safety, law enforcement, transportation engineering, health care and emergency medicine, as well as crash victims. More information on the Campaign can be found at www.stopredlightrunning.com.