



National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of Leslie Blakey, Executive Director National Campaign to Stop Red Light Running Regarding Florida's Enabling Automated Enforcement Legislation – The Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act

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WASHINGTON, DC (May 17, 2010) - The signing of the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act by Governor Crist is a dramatic step forward for the public safety of Florida's citizens. Passage of this statewide enabling legislation gives law enforcement agencies the option of establishing photo enforcement programs and means communities in Florida will have another tool to make its roadways safer. We applaud the leadership of Senator Thad Altman and Representative Ron Reagan in shepherding this legislation through both the House and the Senate. This legislation would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of Melissa Wandall, a victim advocate whose husband Mark was tragically killed in 2003 by a red-light runner and in whose name the legislation was passed.

One in three Americans knows someone who has been injured, someone who has been killed, or both because of a red light runner. According to the Federal Highway Administration, in 2008, 762 people were killed and an estimated 137,000 were injured in crashes that involved red-light running. Photo enforcement is a proven technology that can greatly improve road safety when properly implemented as a supplement to traditional law enforcement, along with sound engineering and public education. The risk of a citation focuses motorists on staying within the limits, which translates to greater safety for everyone. Safety is both the justification and result of photo enforcement programs. The citizens of Florida are the real winners as a result of this legislation passing and being signed into law.

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.

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