

SAFETY FOCUS

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THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO STOP RED LIGHT RUNNING ADVISORY BOARD

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This issue focuses on the upcoming 2005 observance of National Stop On Red Week, an update on developments in Florida and a review of all pending state red light and speed limit photo enforcement legislation.

Campaign Readies For Nat'l Stop on Red Week

The National Campaign to Stop Red Light running has finalized a series of events across the country to draw attention to the 2005 observance of National Stop on Red Week.

The Campaign will again be partnering with Major League Baseball teams including the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and the Arizona Diamondbacks to hold "Stop On Red Night at the Ballpark" events as well as producing the popular "Get Home Safe" posters featuring players from each partner team.

The Campaign will also hold press conferences in each partner city with local officials and red light running survivor advocates to draw attention to the ongoing problem of red light running.

In addition, the Empire State Building will once again be honoring National Stop On Red Week by illuminating the top levels of the famous New York City landmark in the red, yellow and green pattern of a traffic light.

Members of the American Trauma Society – Maryland Division and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) will be handing out limited edition 2003 Get



The Empire State Building will be illuminated in red, yellow and green on Sept. 1 for 2005 National Stop on Red Week

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2005 Stop On Red Week Approaching Fast

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Home Safe posters featuring Baltimore Oriole Melvin Mora at the community booth during the Orioles home game against the Oakland A's on Aug. 29th.

The Campaign has once again asked the fleet of Goodyear blimps to help raise public awareness by running Stop on Red Week safety messages on each blimp's electronic message boards.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is asking all of their member agencies to also run National Stop on Red Week messages on the growing number of electronic highway message boards.

And finally, the Campaign has been working with communities from San Francisco, California to Sarasota, Florida on local events to help draw more public attention to red light running in their communities.



Our 2005 Arizona Diamondbacks "Get Home Safe" poster features pitcher Brad Halsey

**2005
NATIONAL
STOP ON RED
WEEK
AUG. 27 - SEPT. 2**

www.stopredlightrunning.com



How To Promote 2005 National Stop On Red Week In Your Community

- Urge your local police to conduct red light running enforcement sweeps and hold a press conference to announce the results.
 - If your city has red light cameras near school zones, ask the city if school children could paint designs on the camera poles.
 - Ask local banks or businesses with scrolling message lightboards to display Stop on Red Week safety messages.
 - Urge TV and radio stations to reinforce the national and local human and financial cost of red light running crashes.
- Call the Campaign at 202-828-9100 for more outreach ideas.

Our 2005 "Get Home Safe" MLB Player Poster Lineup!

Bengie Molina

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim

Birthdate: July 20, 1974

Hometown: Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

MLB Debut: 1998

Bats: Right

Throws: Right

Brad Halsey

Arizona Diamondbacks

Birthdate: February 14, 1981

Hometown: Houston, TX

MLB Debut: 2004

Bats: Left

Throws: Right

Florida Cities Want Cameras For Safer Roads

In the absence of any statewide enabling legislation, several cities and counties in Florida have started installing red light cameras to track the number of red light runners and issue warnings to violators.

The City of Pembroke Pines recently asked the State Attorney General to offer his opinion on whether Florida cities could use "home rule" authority to operate red light cameras. His response was that cities could only issue warnings, not citations. The City of Orlando has since started operating red light cameras to track the number of violations and issue warnings.

However, the City of Gulf Breeze made the surprise decision recently to install red light cameras and issue civil traffic citations. It is unclear what impact this new development will have on the future of red light cameras in Florida. The city's action could lead to a general acceptance of issuing civil citations with red light cameras or it could provoke a state legislative response.

The state legislature did approve a new state law that increases the financial penalties for red light running, but the measure does not increase traffic enforcement. That law was passed after the tragic deaths of two young sisters in a horrific 2004 Orlando red light running crash.

In 2003, Florida drivers running red lights caused 8,900 collisions, 115 deaths, and more than 10,000 injuries.

A Close Call In Orlando

Last night, Connie (my wife) and I had a true "near death experience" because of a red light runner.

Connie is 100% medically disabled as the result of a 1997 vehicle mishap (we were rear-ended by a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed at a stoplight) so last night's experience was doubly disconcerting for her.

Because of the prevalence of red light runners in Orlando, Connie and I are very cautious when entering intersections after a red light. This no doubt saved our lives last night.

We only saw the black Honda Civic - it was traveling so fast, it seemed to come from nowhere - as it was about to collide with us. Connie and I will never forget how enormous the grill of this small car looked, accelerating toward our drivers door (Connie was driving). Both of us new a crash was imminent...I *knew* Connie was going to be killed.

Fortunately, she braked and the Civic driver swerved immediately left and back right, barely maintaining control of his vehicle as he narrowly avoided colliding with oncoming traffic! While I'm certain this all took place in little more than a blink of an eye, it seemed like an eternity.

The emotional "aftershocks" are still very much with us. Hopefully, the Honda Civic driver has had some similar aftershocks.

Sincerely,
Mark Bernhardt
Orlando, Florida

NOTABLE QUOTE

"Grit your teeth. Stomp the gas. Accelerate and celebrate every Floridian's right to speed through a red light unencumbered by Big Brother, Pembroke Pines City Hall or the occasional lost Escalade (preferably with after-market chrome spinner hubs). Mow down a pedestrian. Take out a Vespa. And know that the Florida Legislature is there with you, ridin shotgun, eatin drive-through Sonic burgers and shoutin hallelujah-come-to-Jesus."

- *Miami Herald* columnist Fred Grimm's blunt assessment of the Florida State Legislature's continued opposition to cities like Orlando, Pembroke Pines and Gulf Breeze establishing red light cameras under home rule.

Legislative Update — August 2005

If there is legislation pending in your state that is not listed here, please contact the Campaign at (202)828-9100 or info@stopredlightrunning.com.

RED LIGHT RUNNING SAFETY CAMERAS

Connecticut: HB 5744 (Judiciary Committee) would authorize speed and red light cameras in Connecticut municipalities. The bill was approved by four different House committees, but was not given a vote by the 6/8/05 end of session deadline.

Illinois: HB 3463 (Cullerton) would expand the use of red light cameras to Illinois cities other than Chicago. Passed the House by a vote of 84-32 on 4/13/05. Referred to Senate Transportation Committee, where it died at the end of the legislative session.

Ohio: HB 56 (Raussen) would ban the use of automated enforcement technology. The House Transportation, Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee approved the bill on 4/4/05 by a vote of 8-3. The full House approved the legislation on 5/18/05. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Highways and Transportation which is in recess until September.

Massachusetts: HB 2023 (Honan) would authorize the cities of Boston and Cambridge to use automated traffic enforcement devices on certain roadways. Referred to the Joint Committee on Transportation.

Pennsylvania: HB1568 (Creighton) would expand the use of red light cameras to communities other than Philadelphia. Introduced on 5/10/05 and referred to the House Transportation Committee.

Rhode Island: SB 909 (Goodwin) would authorize statewide use of red light cameras. Referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Initial hearing held 3/12/05, subsequent hearing held 6/16/05. No further action taken.

HB 6315 (McCauley) House version of Senate bill. Referred to the House Finance Committee. House approved the bill on 6/29/05, the Senate approved the bill on 6/30/05 and it **became law without the Governor's signature on 7/19/05.**

SPEEDING SAFETY CAMERAS

California: SB 466 (Kuehl) would allow the use of photo radar in residential areas. Amended to only allow enforcement in school zones and residential areas with posted speed limits under 30 mph. Referred back to Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.

Attention Campaign Members!

Do you have friends, family or colleagues who would be interested in receiving our newsletter? Do you regularly forward the newsletter on to others? Help us increase awareness of the dangers of red light running by asking anyone who is interested to e-mail us at info@stopredlightrunning.com and be added to our mailing list.