



Ohio Municipal League

Our Cities and Villages ★ Bringing Ohio to Life

December 12, 2014

Honorable John Kasich
Governor
State of Ohio

Dear Governor Kasich:

On behalf of the Ohio Municipal League Board of Directors and our member municipalities, I am writing you today to ask that you apply the constitutional powers afforded you and VETO SB 342, legislation essentially barring municipalities from employing the use of electronic traffic law photo monitoring devices.

A number of the municipalities in Ohio utilize safety cameras (red light and speed photo monitoring devices) to make our streets safer. Throughout the legislative process, proponents shared with legislators that safety cameras have been proven to deter reckless driving, reduce crashes and save lives. Law enforcement and city leaders should have the ability to use photo enforcement technology as a tool to improve public safety. SB 342 would strip this right from Ohio municipal corporations, putting resident and non-resident drivers and pedestrians who use the streets at risk.

Cities have experienced significant improvements in street safety. In Columbus, there was a 74% reduction in right-angle crashes and a 25% reduction in rear-end crashes since the city started using cameras. Springfield saw a 47% reduction in crashes after cameras were installed. Safety cameras in Toledo led to a 39% reduction in fatal red light running crashes and there was a 35% reduction in red light running crashes in Dayton after camera were installed. The numbers tell the story- these cameras make a difference.

Some oppose safety cameras because they consider them to be revenue generators. We support safety cameras as tools for our municipalities. Cameras modify driver behavior and make our cities safer. We believe cities should have the opportunity to choose whether safety cameras are right for them and their residents.

Issuing tickets by police on the scene could also be considered a revenue generator. However, it is also not necessarily the most cost effective use of safety forces.

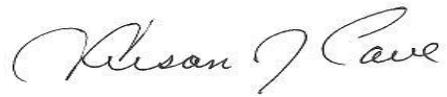
Municipalities have a choice when it comes to implementing the use of red light or speed monitoring devices. It is a matter of local control both with the city government and the residents of the community. Local voters can say “no” to such safety enforcement plans by the use of referendum and initiative as evidenced in the most recent November election.

Rather than an outright ban or a ban in disguise, would it not be a better solution to work with cities and other interested parties to provide more guidance in statute on the use of such devices while recognizing that this is clearly a local control issue?

We ask that you VETO SB 342 for its infringement on the ability of municipalities to provide

safety and accountability to residents and non residents as they travel the streets and thoroughfares of Ohio's communities.

We ask that you give favorable consideration to our request.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan J. Cave". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Susan J. Cave
Executive Director

