



July 26, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kent Scarrett
Executive Director
Ohio Municipal League
(614)221-4349

**STATEMENT FROM OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONCERNING
OHIO SUPREME COURT RED LIGHT CAMERA RULING
AFFIRMING HOME RULE PROVISIONS**

Columbus, Ohio-The Ohio Municipal League expressed support today for the 5-2 decision by the Ohio Supreme Court, striking down provisions of SB 342, legislation passed in 2015 preempting the constitutional authorities of Ohio’s cities and villages to employ the use of Red Light camera enforcement technology for traffic management practices.

The challenge originally initiated by the city of Dayton and later supported through amicus briefs by the league and municipalities across the state, focused on the legislature’s over-reach in the areas of requiring an officer to be present at the time of a Red Light camera violation before a citation can be issued, the unfunded mandate that municipalities conduct extensive traffic studies before initiating the use of the enforcement tools and that the legislature provided a “leeway” in what constituted a speeding violation in zones where the monitoring systems are deployed.

“When the legislature was debating the merits of SB342, the league and our members counseled legislators that the proposal was a violation of municipalities’ Home Rule authorities and thus is in violation of the Ohio constitution but unfortunately those conversations did not dissuade the General Assembly from acting and now the Supreme Court has rightly said the legislature violated Ohio municipalities’ constitutional rights,” OML Executive Director Kent Scarrett said.

“This is not the first time the Supreme Court and other Ohio courts have ruled that these preemptions from the Ohio legislature violate the local control protections the Ohio constitution grants cities and villages and we are hopeful that the legislature changes their approach to addressing issues in our communities that some may find challenging,” he said. “Our legislators should be working with our municipal leaders and not dictating to our citizens how their communities should be run.”

Scarrett cited a study last year by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety that showed a 30% increase in the number of fatal crashes that have occurred at intersections where the use of Red Light cameras were discontinued, since the enactment of SB 342 in the 130th General Assembly.

“The study by the IIHS last year clearly indicates that the use of Red Light cameras in municipal intersections saves lives. Motorists that run red lights in our communities have no regard for public safety and those that are most often killed are passengers on vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. Police can’t be at every intersection to protect innocent people so the use of technology to provide greater awareness and safety measures should be embraced by state leaders and not discouraged,” Scarrett said.

The Ohio Municipal League is a non-profit, non-partisan association that represents the collective interest of over 730 Ohio cities and villages before the Ohio General Assembly, state elected and administrative offices.

XXXX