



October 16, 2018

Honorable Bob LeGare
Office of the Mayor
15151 East Alameda Parkway, Suite 5800
Aurora, CO 80012

Dear Mayor LeGare:

Safe Kids Worldwide writes to express its support for the referendum that would continue the safety red light camera program in Aurora, Colorado. We urge a “yes” vote. At Safe Kids our mission is to prevent unintentional injury deaths, the number one cause of death for children in the U.S. A child hit by a red-light runner need not happen.

A safety camera program is an evidence-based strategy that is making our roads safer, especially involving vulnerable pedestrians such as children and senior citizens. When people are aware of safety cameras, research shows that they tend to slow down, stop at red lights and drive more carefully. In Aurora, between 2016 and 2017, the number of traffic citations decreased at 12 of the 14 intersections because fewer drivers are running red lights.¹

Of the fourteen safety cameras in Aurora, six are within a half-mile of a school. For example, a safety red light camera at S. Airport Blvd. and E. Alameda is less than 1,000 feet from Global Village Academy, an elementary school serving kids from kindergarten to third grade, where there was a 14 percent decrease in red light running between 2015-2017. Other protected intersections are within a half-mile of parks and the Aurora Public Library.

An August 2018 study about the effectiveness of automated enforcement safety speed cameras in Seattle, Washington school zones showed that speed violations were cut nearly in half once the cameras were turned on; their effectiveness was sustained in their second year of operation.² Further, there are consequences of ending automated enforcement programs. Cities that have turned off their red-light safety cameras experienced up to a 30 percent increase in fatal red-light running crashes.³

The use of safety cameras is a smart, tested strategy. Let’s keep it.

Sincerely,

Anthony Green
Safe Kids Worldwide
Director, Public Policy



The camera at S. Peoria and E. Mississippi is close to Village East Elementary School and Wood Adventist Christian School, where there was a 19 percent decrease in red light running between 2015-2017.



Sources:

¹ Aurora City Council, May 21, 2018, p25-253. Accessed October 4, 2018. Available at <https://www.auroragov.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=13014833>

² Quistberg DA, Thompson LL, Curtin J, Rivera FP, Ebel BE, "Impact of automated photo enforcement of vehicle speed in school zones: interrupted time series analysis," August 2018.

³ "Red-Light Running Dangers in the United States," American Traffic Solutions. Accessed October 3, 2018. Available at <https://www.atsol.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ATS-RLR-Dangers-Cutsheet-2017.pdf>