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PRESS RELEASE

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Saving Lives through Technology Using Red Light Cameras *-- Miami Beach Launches Intersection Safety Program --*

Miami Beach, FL -- Red light running nationwide is the cause of many vehicle crashes, subsequently causing injuries and death. In an effort to enhance traffic safety in the City of Miami Beach, the City initiated a Miami Beach Intersection Safety Program using red light camera enforcement. The program will not only augment the Miami Beach Police Department's traffic enforcement initiatives but the program should discourage drivers from running red lights.

"It is our desire that these cameras will reduce the number of crashes, injuries and deaths," said Michael Gruen, manager, Miami Beach Police Department. "Intersections were chosen because they have been the sites of higher number of crashes based on crash report data as well as venues where there is a high volume of traffic."

The first intersections with photo enforcement cameras are Washington Avenue and 17th Street (southbound and eastbound) and southbound on Indian Creek Drive at 63rd Street. A 30-day grace period is currently in effect when a Notice of Warning will be issued to the violator in lieu of an Infraction Notice. Cameras at other intersections will be installed over the coming weeks.

Red light camera enforcement utilizes a combination of cameras capturing photo and video images of a vehicle synchronized with the traffic signal, lighting and laser technology to measure speed of a vehicle prior to and after a violation has occurred. When a red light infraction occurs, the video and photos of the vehicle are transmitted via computer to the Affiliated Computer System (ACS), the City's contracted red light photo enforcement company, quality control point and then to the Miami Beach Police Department's Patrol Division specially trained employees to verify that a violation has occurred.

Once a violation is verified, an Infraction Notice is sent via mail to the registered owner of the vehicle. The violator has 20 days to pay the \$125 infraction for the first offense, file an affidavit claiming that the vehicle was not in their control and possession, or contest the infraction with the City of Miami Beach Special Master.

Red light camera infractions do not affect a violator's insurance status or driver's license record. To facilitate the response to the Notice of Infraction, there will be detailed information on the City's website specifying payment options and steps to appeal. Second and third infractions will increase the fine to \$250 and \$500 respectively. A portion of the \$125 fine will go to ACS for the use of their equipment and support of the system.

Last year, the Miami Beach City Commission approved a contract with ACS to install poles which will support cameras and a laser system at 15 intersections throughout Miami Beach. The Miami Beach City Commission enacted the Dangerous Intersection Safety Ordinance, Article XI Dangerous Intersection Safety, Section 106-480 on December 10, 2009. Miami Beach Intersection Safety Program: <http://web.miamibeachfl.gov/pd/scroll.aspx?id=56163>.

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