



Wauchula Police Department

Red-Light Camera Presentation for the
Wauchula City Commission

Presented by Chief Ron Curtis
August Workshop 2026

Overview

- Technology in policing
- Automated “Red-Light” enforcement technology.
- Countermeasure to reduce crashes and injuries.
- Signalized intersections are complex.
- Right-angle crashes more likely to cause serious injuries or death.
- Intersection crashes often impact individuals who are not at fault.

The Problem

- A substantial portion of roadway incidents.
- More likely to result in injury or death.
- In FL over one-quarter of all crashes occur at intersections and one-third result in injury or fatal outcomes.
- Wauchula 2025 - 172 crashes, with 68 or 40% of those crashes occurring in or near intersections.
- Wauchula saw no serious injury or death crashes.
- Current data suggests no urgent crisis in

Causes of Red-Light Violations

- Influenced by:
 - Driver behavior
 - Distraction (cell phones)
 - Impatience
 - Environmental conditions
 - Roadway design
 - The “dilemma zone”
 - Visibility limitations
 - Signal timing

Red-Light Enforcement in Florida

- Automated systems that detect vehicles entering intersections after the signal turns red.
- In FL they are authorized under the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act.
- Civil infractions
- Monetary fines – NO points unless contested further.

Effectiveness

- National research shows they reduce violations
- Reduce severe types of crashes including fatal and angle crashes
- Studies show increases in rear-end crashes
- Mixed effect on total crash frequency

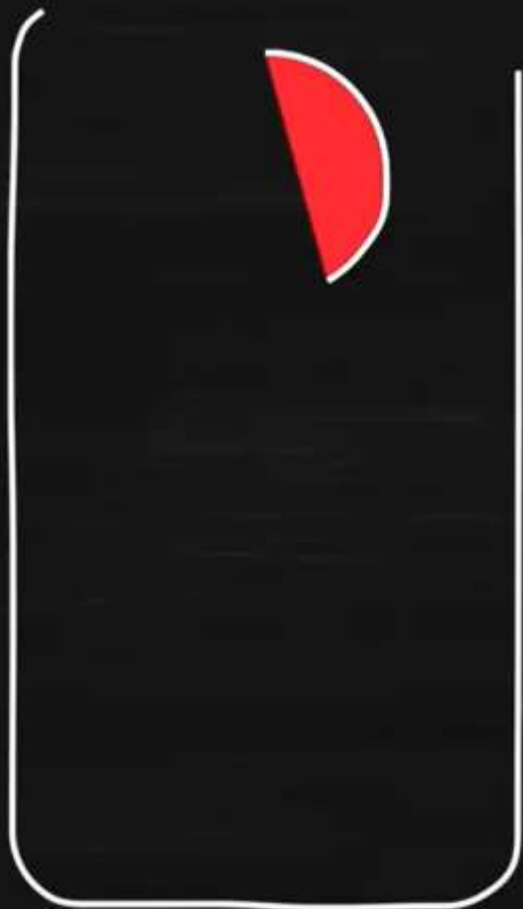
Costs and Policy Considerations

- Vendor based model.
- Zero cost to the City.
- Are they fair to citizens?
- Are they a governmental money grab?
- Is the program accepted and encouraged by the public?

Citizen Considerations

- Some Citizen Comments from Social Media *(Verbatim quotes including spelling errors)*
 - Its probably a **huge money grab** but it will save lives. So many times I have driven thru hardee and back when I lived there did I avoid many accidents. Thank God for whoever helped put that light in. Long over due project.
 - Polk county have pulled several of their cameras.
 - Nothing but **a money grab**.
 - No...its like blaming a road being dangerous it's the drivers
 - I know somebody that got a ticket and they wasn't the

Why red light cameras are a scam



Here's the nightmare. The light turns green, it's clear to go through



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SUBSCRIBE



Florida red light camera enforcement faces major legal challenge



COVERAGE YOU CAN C

Nine

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Man raises concerns about Pensacola red light camera ticket, says he was out of town



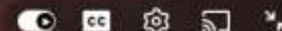
abc 3 NEW TONIGHT

> **ESCAMBIA COUNTY MAN DISPUTES PENSACOLA RED LIGHT TICKET**

>> JACOB ROCKWELL SAYS HE WAS IN ALABAMA AT THE TIME & SOMEONE ELSE WAS USING HIS VEHICLE

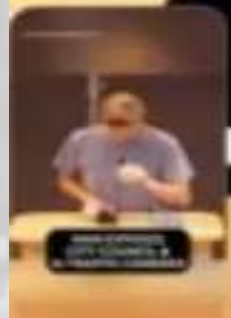
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Reels Friends



**MAN EXPOSES
CITY COUNCIL &
TRAFFIC CAMERAS**



Red-Light Enforcement in Wauchula

- 8 signalized intersections.
- One is higher risk than all others.
- Traffic study and current crash data do not justify a city-wide implementation.
- Proactive measures at 2 may help prevent future injury and/or fatal crashes.

Police Department Considerations

- Two sworn Wauchula PD would handle the daily needs.
- Sworn officers approve or reject the issuance of a citation.
- Implementing this program would not free officers to address other policing priorities or needs.
- Implementing this program would increase workload.
- Crashes consume only a small portion of the department's overall workload.

Are They Constitutional?

- There has been some recent discussion regarding a court case in Florida that may impact the use of red-light cameras.
- Broward County judge, Steven P. DeLuca, issued a ruling in an individual case that questioned the constitutionality of how red-light camera citations are issued under Florida law.
- Judge DeLuca's ruling applies only to that specific case at the trial court level and does not invalidate red-light camera enforcement statewide.
- Monitor closely but don't make immediate changes to any current or proposed programs.
- That said, if this legal argument is ultimately upheld at higher levels, it could have meaningful implications. It could require agencies to prove who was actually driving the vehicle at the time of the violation.
- This case presents a legitimate legal question that could impact red-light camera enforcement in the future, but it is not a definitive or controlling decision.



Conclusion

References

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