



Raymond Kelly Richardson  
Superintendent

Barry Golner  
Deputy Superintendent

Daniel R. Larocque  
Deputy Superintendent

To: Eileen Donoghue *EMD*  
City Manager

From: Raymond Kelly Richardson *RKR*  
Superintendent of Police

Date: June 17, 2020

Re: Motion Response – Traffic Cameras at Intersections/Roadways

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***6/9/2020 – Councilor Elliott – Request the City Manager and the Superintendent of Police provide a report regarding installation of traffic cameras at intersection/roadways.***

The Police Department has reviewed the viability of installing traffic cameras at certain intersections and roadways and has determined that red light and speed cameras are currently not authorized by either State Law or a City Ordinance in the Commonwealth. The only authorized traffic camera program in Massachusetts is at toll locations on the Massachusetts Turnpike. Surveillance type cameras at intersections for motor vehicle enforcement would also encounter similar issues. The difficult component, even if authorized, is that enforcement/penalties would and could only be levied against the vehicle owners. Statistics would show that a vast number of motor vehicle encounters result in interactions with a driver who is not in fact the vehicle owner. Other issues raised by opponents to either red light or speed cameras are that it becomes a for-profit business. The latest information from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety/Highway Loss Data Institute (IIHS HLDI) shows that there are currently 411 communities in the United States that have red light camera programs and 146 communities that have speed camera programs.

The existing traffic cameras in the City are there for the purpose of traffic detection for the signal operation. They are not currently connected to a network to allow for live streaming or recording. For certain cameras, it is possible to add a USB thumb drive to record the video stream. To view it, the USB would have to be removed and connected to a computer. The USB drives would need to be replaced every 1.5-2 months. It is also possible to connect the cameras to fiber optic lines to allow for live streaming and recording. Currently, we do not have the infrastructure (conduit, hand-holes, etc.) in place to run the fiber optic lines. The cost to do so has not been determined.