

Florida Civil Rights Association

MEDIA ADVISORY

Friday, April 16, 2010

MEDIA CONTACTS

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GROUPS SAYS: LAWMAKERS GIVING OUT GIFTS TO CITIES WHO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

*Public Protest against Lakeland's Red Light Ticket Cameras
among a growing list of targeted cities enforcing ticket camera*

ORLANDO, FLA. – Officials at the Florida Civil Rights Association and the National Motorists Association termed the recent vote on Red Light Cameras in the House and Senate Committees as a continuation of a scam perpetuated on the public by local government. We are going to protest these devices, said J. Willie David, III, president of the Florida Civil Rights Association (FCRA). The legislature is giving out “gifts to cities who engage in illegal activity,” David said. These cameras need to be banned, not sanctioned, he said.

David states that he is appalled that the fleecing of motorists at traffic lights continues despite of Florida Attorney Generals opinions, court rulings and study results. Ticket cameras deny due process rights according to the constitution said David.” Ticket cameras are no more than a “hidden tax on motorists disguised as a public safety devise that falls short of real law enforcement.”

To protest the recent committee vote and to send a message to legislators, a public protest will be held in Lakeland, FL on Saturday April 17th at the southeast corner of N. Florida Avenue and Memorial Blvd. (US98 and US 92) in the hometown of Senator Paula Dockery, the sole committee chairman who voted against these devices in the Transportation Committee. “We are happy that she voted against the measure, and we want to send a message to all legislators that voters don't want these devices in their backyards,” said Henry Stowe, Lead Activist of the Florida chapter of the National Motorists Association.

These devices are “unsafe, unfounded and unconstitutional,” said Stowe. The courts have found that they are unconstitutional as they violate due process rights of the accused. These include the right to a trial, the right to confront your accuser, and the right to be presumed innocent, Stowe explained. Their overall safety need has not been demonstrated, he added. Red light running violations are responsible for around 2 percent of accidents overall. A high number of tickets are also issued for right turns on red, which constitutes a statistically insignificant portion of accidents, 0.038 percent according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. They are also unsafe – independent studies show accidents increase. “Almost every week, a new study is out showing increases in accidents at camera monitored intersections,” said Stowe. “It's outrageous.”

Protesters plan to counter the proponents claim that 85 percent of the public supports red light cameras. It is “pure garbage” according to Stowe. “These devices have never survived a public referendum,” said Stowe. People are beginning to realize that cameras accuse the wrong people, punish technical foul violations, and have a lousy safety record.

WHO: Florida Civil Rights Association
National Motorists Association
banthecams.org
stoplightscam.com
Lakeland Motorists

WHAT: Public Protest against the City of Lakeland’s Red Light Camera Program

WHEN: Saturday, April 17, 2010
12:00 PM

WHERE: N. Florida Avenue and Memorial Blvd. (US98 and US 92)
Lakeland, Florida