

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 7, 2009 CONTACT: Mónica Muñoz (619) 531-2875 <u>munozm@pd.sandiego.gov</u>

END OF 30-DAY WARNING PERIOD FOR RED LIGHT PHOTO SAFETY SYSTEMS

(San Diego) Beginning Tuesday, January 6, anyone who ran a red light at the four, recently added Red Light Photo Safety (RLPS) intersections will receive a citation in the mail. The citations carry a minimum \$436 penalty.

Four new systems were activated on December 5 and a thirty day warning period began for violators during which time they were issued warning citations only. The thirty day warning period for violators at these intersection ends as of January 5, 2009.

The most recently added intersections are: Camino del Rio North at Mission Center Road; Mira Mesa Boulevard at Scranton Road; El Camino Real at Del Mar Heights Road; and 10th Avenue at F Street. This brings the total of RLPS intersections within the city of San Diego to eight. These systems are put in place to create a safer environment for San Diego's motorists.

The RLPS system operates using cameras mounted on poles and sensors which are buried in the pavement prior to the intersection. Once the signal turns red, the system is activated and will recognize a vehicle which trips the sensors and travels into the intersection, past the limit line. The camera system photographs the vehicle from the front as well as from behind. The system is designed to operate only after the signal has turned red. A motorist who is caught in the intersection while the signal light is yellow will not be photographed. In addition, the intersections are equipped with video technology which will capture 12 seconds of video for each violation. The video will show the violator entering the intersection after the light has turned red.

There are four other RLPS intersections currently in operation: "A" Street at 10th Avenue; Garnet Avenue at Mission Bay Drive; Grape Street at North Harbor Drive and Aero Drive at Murphy Canyon Road.

SDPD News Release Red Light Photo Safety – End of 30 day warning period Page Two

Locations for RLPS cameras are selected by the City of San Diego Transportation Engineering Division and the San Diego Police Department. The selections are made based on traffic collision history and collision type. Other factors, such as traffic violation history, vehicular, pedestrian and bicyclist traffic volume and speed and input from residents are taken into consideration as well.

The City of San Diego's RLPS program creates a safer environment for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. It's a joint effort of the City's Transportation Engineering Division and the San Diego Police Department.

Information about the RLPS program is available on the City of San Diego's web site at <u>www.sandiego.gov</u>. Additionally, residents are encouraged to email suggestions or feedback on the program to <u>redlightphoto@sandiego.gov</u>.

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