



*House Transportation Committee
Sept. 25, 2007
Public Hearing on "Red Light Cameras" reauthorization*

House Bill 1559, Printer's No. 1959

Good morning, Rep. Markosek, Rep. Geist, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Deborah Musselman; I am Director of Government Affairs for the Pennsylvania Newspaper Association (PNA), a trade association with offices in Harrisburg representing approximately 330 newspapers in Pennsylvania.

PNA is pleased to submit recommendations pertaining to continued implementation of "automated red light enforcement systems" in Philadelphia under 2002 amendments to Title 75. We believe our suggestions would foster openness, improve your ability and that of the public to evaluate the system, and increase public confidence in this traffic enforcement tool. We appreciate your interest in our views as you evaluate reauthorization of this law as its initial five years draws to a close.

Our concerns pertain to language in Section 3116 (e)(3) which provides, in part, that all information relating to the use of red light cameras must be held *"for the exclusive use of the city and its authorized agents, its employees and law enforcement officials for the purpose of discharging their duties under this section...The information shall not be deemed a public record under ...the Right-to-Know Law."*

Traffic citations and offenses, as you know, are public records. The intersections specified in Sec. 3116 are public roadways. Everyone, therefore, has an interest in the assessment of the system's reliability and efficacy, in the fairness of its use, and other related issues. Opening up information about the operation of these cameras can only foster confidence that they are being used fairly and appropriately.

In light of current and ongoing efforts that began early this session in both the House and the Senate to bring a new and better open records law to fruition, we request that this inappropriate provision of Title 75 be stricken, in the broad public interest, as you proceed with the red light cameras reauthorization bill in the weeks and months ahead.

Thank you for your attention and interest. Please do not hesitate to call on me if you need any further information. I will be pleased to try to address your questions.

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