

Statement by
HON. GEORGE KENNEY
State Representative – 170th District

Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Transportation Committee
September 25, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank you for scheduling a public hearing on House Bill 1559. I want to commend the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the tremendous job they are doing in running the red light camera program on Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia.

Finally after three years - we are now making real progress in saving lives by slowing down traffic and reducing the number of vehicles that run red lights on Roosevelt Boulevard.

Some four years ago – I joined with my colleagues John Perzel and John Taylor to sponsor legislation that would authorize the Philadelphia Parking Authority to implement and oversee the red light camera program in the city of Philadelphia. Our goal was to save lives.

Today – we are making progress and realizing our goal of saving lives. We are reducing the number of motorists who run red lights at eight key intersections on Roosevelt Boulevard. The percentage of reduction in red light running is staggering. At one of our initial locations there was a whopping 87% reduction in the number of red light running violations.

Mr. Fenerty from the Philadelphia Parking Authority will give you a more detailed analysis of the reductions we experienced at the first three red light camera locations on Roosevelt Boulevard. He will also give details and statistics on speed camera technology as well.

Today I want to ask my colleagues to support my legislation and Rep. Tony Payton's legislation that would extend authorization for the Philadelphia Parking Authority to run the red light camera program until 2010.

My legislation will also allow the Philadelphia Parking Authority the option to choose the best available photographic technology for their cameras. My legislation will also allow the Parking Authority to utilize the latest technologies to incorporate speed detection cameras into their arsenal for saving lives on Roosevelt Boulevard.

We are proud of our partnership with the Philadelphia Parking Authority on this critically important life-saving program. I would ask that you support my legislation and legislation sponsored by Rep. Payton as well.

Thank you.