

Fellow Residents of Abington Township,

Protecting our great community is the primary mission and the highest honor of the Abington Township Police Department.

We are proud that Abington has been chosen three straight times by Money Magazine as “One of the 100 Best Places to Live in America” and “Safety” was a primary criterion in that selection.

But because of our low crime rate in Abington, the greatest risk of death, injury or financial loss to you and your family is actually not criminals and crime, but careless drivers and motor vehicle accidents. In fact, several intersections in our Township are not only the “most dangerous places in Abington” but also are very difficult places to do traditional enforcement and “violation prevention” because of the configuration of those intersections.

That’s why I am pleased to report that the State of Pennsylvania has chosen Abington as one of only 12 municipalities in the State (out of 2,562) to be authorized to implement Red Light Camera technology in order to make three of our most dangerous intersections safer.

Yes, we know that some Red Light Camera programs are controversial and appear to be more about generating income than ensuring safety. But Abington’s program is different, and generates no income for The Township.

Enclosed you will learn how this program is structured in order to create an effective, safe, low-cost way to make “Abington’s most dangerous places” safer for all. For additional information visit our website at www.abingtonpd.org.

Please drive carefully and please support our never-ending efforts to keep our great community safe, and one of America’s best places to live!

Sincerely,

William J. Kelly
Chief of Police

Red light camera locations:

Old York Rd. and Susquehanna Rd.

Old York Rd. and Old Welsh Rd.

Moreland Rd. and Fitzwatertown Rd.



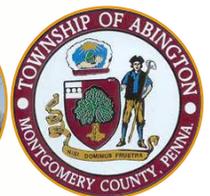
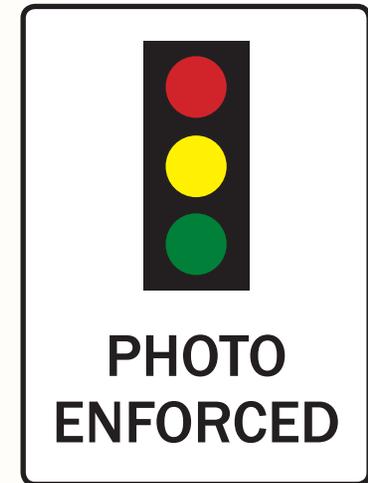
For more information contact
the Abington Township Police Department’s
Traffic Safety Unit
267-536-1076 or ARLC@abington.org

Abington Township Police Department
1166 Old York Road
Abington, PA 19001
www.AbingtonPD.org

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

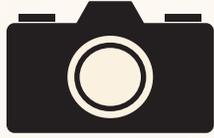
RED LIGHT

PHOTO ENFORCEMENT



Abington’s new state-of-the-art
red light enforcement system will
help make our community safer.

It's simple. Red light enforcement cameras work.



They modify driver behavior, and this in turn reduces the number of accidents. Together, we can make this new program a success in Abington.

Is “red light running” really that big of a problem?

Yes. Red light runners cause hundreds of deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, annually over 700 people are killed and an estimated 118,000 are injured in crashes that involved red light running. What's worse, more than half of the deaths in red light running crashes are not the red light runners, but instead are the pedestrians, bicyclists, and occupants in the “other vehicles” who are hit by the red light runners.

Why can't the police monitor the intersections instead?

The three Intersections chosen for the Automated Red Light Enforcement in Abington were selected not only because of the number of violations, accidents, and injuries but also because the configuration of the intersection and the adjacent properties makes it virtually impossible to do traditional, non-automated enforcement effectively and safely. The new cameras will accurately and safely do enforcement at these dangerous intersections 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at no cost to the taxpayers.

Can the red light traffic cameras really help?

Across the country, cameras have been shown to substantially reduce violations, decrease the number of crashes and injuries, and improve driver behavior. Interestingly, because the red light cameras raised the consciousness of the drivers in the communities with the red light cameras, these positive outcomes were achieved even at locations other than the intersections with the red light cameras!

What else can we expect from the photo enforcement camera system?

In addition to making drivers more vigilant and making our most dangerous intersections safer, the red light cameras allow the police to focus their time on other activities, including crime prevention and responding to traffic complaints in the residential neighborhoods. Also, the cameras provide documentation about questionable accidents at the intersections and evidence for any crimes in the area.

Does someone double-check the photographs before drivers are ticketed?

Yes. Trained police officers review every picture to verify vehicle information and ensure the vehicle is in violation. Violations are mailed to vehicle owners only in cases where it is clear the vehicle ran a red light. A red light violation occurs when the vehicle is clearly behind the stop line, the traffic light is red and the vehicle continues through the intersection while the traffic light is red.

How much will it cost? Can we afford this?

There is no cost to our community for installing, operating, or maintaining the system. All equipment and personnel costs directly related to the program will be funded by violators.

Is this just a way for Abington to make money?

No. Unlike many other red light camera programs, Abington gets no revenue from this program (although we are allowed to recoup actual equipment and personnel expenses related directly to the program.)

Then why are we implementing this program?

There are 3 primary reasons for this program. SAFETY, SAFETY, AND SAFETY! Objective research indicates that the red light cameras will make these three intersections safer for Abington Residents, their families, and for all who drive through Abington Township.

How were these 3 intersections chosen?

Based on the number of violations, the number of accidents (especially accidents with injuries) and the difficulty (virtual impossibility!) to effectively and SAFELY do “traditional enforcement” at these intersections.

So the goal is to “catch” a lot of violators?

No, because we get no additional revenues from the program, we have no incentive to just catch violators. Our main objective is to reduce accidents, and especially accidents with injuries, by deterring

violators and reducing the number of red light violations, not just catching the violators after the fact.

Won't the number of violators go down over time?

Absolutely! And that's the goal, of course! In other communities where red light cameras were implemented, the number of red light violations was cut in half within the first year.

Won't that reduce the amount of revenues produced by the program?

Sure, but since Abington is implementing the program for the purpose of reducing the number violations, accidents and injuries (and since Abington gets none of the fines, anyway!) we will consider the reduced revenues a sign of the program's success.

Imagine that! A government program that gets results AND costs LESS over time to run!

Where are the intersections?

- Old York Rd and Susquehanna Rd
- Old York Rd and Old Welsh Rd
- Moreland Rd and Fitzwatertown Rd

Will people know when those intersections are coming up?

Yes, signs will be posted at every intersection warning drivers that photo enforcement is in use, ahead.

Do red light cameras have a positive track record?

Yes. Cameras are already used for law enforcement in many major U.S. cities as well as other towns, counties and communities of all sizes. Over 500 communities use the cameras for enforcement.

Aren't red light traffic cameras controversial?

Some red light camera programs have been controversial because of how they were implemented or administered. But because Abington receives none of the fines, Abington has no “profit motive.” As a result, citizens can be assured that Abington will administer it properly and for the right reason – the safety of our citizens. And there is certainly no controversy about making the most dangerous locations in our community safer, especially when it is being done at no cost to Abington taxpayers!

And remember, Abington's program is a limited program (3 intersections), established on a one-year trial basis, to determine if they make our most dangerous intersections safer. After the first year, the Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing to determine if the program is achieving its safety goals and if it should be continued, modified or eliminated.