

Seattle, WA



Red Light Photo Enforcement Program

***"It's all about saving lives"***

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**Q. WHAT IS THE CITY OF SEATTLE RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM?**

A. Pedestrian collisions and right-angle vehicle collisions at high speeds often result from running red lights. Studies have shown that such collisions involve more risk of serious injury or death than other kinds of collisions. In an effort to reduce these types of accidents, the State of Washington and the City of Seattle have adopted laws that allow automated camera enforcement of selected traffic safety statutes and ordinances. City of Seattle Ordinance No. 121944 authorizes the installation and operation of automated cameras to enforce the City's stoplight ordinances.

From a review of a video recording by an automated traffic camera it has been determined that, on the date and time and at the location indicated on the front side of this notice, your vehicle was facing a steady circular red signal when it failed to stop at a clearly marked stop line or at any other stopping point described in the ordinance. Some images may contain both a steady red signal and a fading yellow signal. In these circumstances, the presence of the yellow signal is due to incandescence bulb afterglow; a review of the violation video will clearly show the light to be red.

**If you were making a right hand turn at the time of the incident, the videotape shows that you failed to come to a complete stop before making the turn as required by SMC 11.50.140.**

State law provides that the registered owner of a vehicle is presumed to have operated the vehicle at the time an infraction was detected by an automated traffic safety camera unless the registered owner overcomes the presumption by a statement, under oath, in writing to the court or in testimony before the court that the vehicle involved was, at the time, stolen or in the care, custody, or control of some person other than the registered owner.

**An infraction detected through the use of an automated traffic safety camera is a non criminal offense for which you cannot go to jail. The penalty for this infraction is \$101 and, like a parking ticket, is not part of the violator's driving record.** Therefore, a finding that the infraction was committed, either by payment or after a hearing, will not be reported to the Department of Licensing. However, failure to respond to a Notice of Infraction, failure to appear for a requested hearing, or failure to pay a penalty imposed after a hearing will be reported to the Department of Licensing and may result in a hold being placed on your vehicle registration and license tabs.

**Q. WHAT IF THE REGISTERED OWNER WAS NOT DRIVING THE VEHICLE AT THE TIME OF THE VIOLATION?**

A. You may submit a sworn statement to that effect to the Court to rebut the presumption, established in RCW 46.63.075, that you were driving the vehicle at the time of the violation. A Declaration of Non-Responsibility form can be obtained from the Court in any of the following ways:

- ✓ Download or print the form from the Court's website: [www.seattle.gov/courts](http://www.seattle.gov/courts).
- ✓ Call the Court at 206-684-5600
- ✓ Visit the Court in person (1st Floor) at 600 Fifth Avenue (at James Street, downtown).

Return the completed form to the Court in person (1st floor), by fax to 206-684-8887, or by mail: Municipal Court of Seattle, ATTN: Photo Enforcement Citations, PO Box 34987, Seattle, WA 98124-4987. **You must return the declaration to the Court by the due date shown on the front of this Notice of Infraction.**

**Q. WHAT IS THE FINE? ARE THERE ANY FEES FOR LATE PAYMENTS?**

A. The photo red light fine in Seattle is \$101.00. If your payment is not received or a hearing is not set prior to the due date indicated on your notice, a \$25 late fee may be added to the \$101.00 fine amount.

**Q. CAN I RECEIVE CITATIONS FOR OTHER OFFENSES AS A RESULT OF MY RED LIGHT CAMERA CITATION?**

A. No. Drivers who receive photo red light citations are cited for red light violations only

**Q. HOW DO I PAY MY FINE?**

A. Your Payment Options:

- ✓ Send a check or money order in U.S. funds, payable to the **Seattle Municipal Court**, for the AMOUNT DUE shown on the front. Please write your Notice # and your license plate # on your check or money order. PLEASE DO NOT MAIL CASH.
- ✓ Pay through the internet at [www.seattle.gov/courts/ticketinformation.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/courts/ticketinformation.htm) or through our automated payment system accessible from any touch-tone telephone at (206) 233-7000.
- ✓ Pay in person, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Court Payment Office on the 1st floor of the Seattle Municipal Court Building, 600 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA. A payment box is located in the front of the Seattle Municipal Court Building for after-hours convenience.

**Important: Your payment must be received on or before the due date shown on the front of your Notice of Violation**

**Q. CAN I VIEW THE IMAGES OR VIDEO CLIP OF THE VIOLATION?**

A. TO VIEW VIDEO AND IMAGES: The recorded video and images of this incident will be submitted as evidence in the municipal court proceeding for prosecution of this violation. You may view the video and images of this incident online at [www.ViolationInfo.com](http://www.ViolationInfo.com). Use the Notice # and Pin # printed on the front of this notice to login.

If you have questions, contact Seattle Municipal Court Customer Service at (206) 684-5600, during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

**Q. HOW CAN I REQUEST A HEARING?**

A. TO REQUEST A HEARING, USE THE COUPON ON YOUR NOTICE OF INFRACTION. YOUR HEARING OPTIONS INCLUDE:

- ✓ **A HEARING TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES:** By requesting a mitigation hearing, you will be deemed to have committed the infraction. You may not subpoena witnesses for this hearing. You would request a mitigation hearing if you agree you committed the infraction but believe the circumstances may be such that the court could reduce or waive the penalty.
- ✓ **A HEARING TO CONTEST THE INFRACTION:** At a contested hearing the City has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the infraction was committed. You may subpoena witnesses including the officer who issued this Notice of Infraction. If you request a contested hearing the Court will schedule a pre-hearing conference, which you may waive by using the form attached to the Notice of hearing that the Court will send you.

**Q. WHY ARE THEY USED?**

A. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety red light running is a leading cause of urban crashes and often causes injury and death. Cities install the system to improve public safety by deterring red light running.

**Q. HOW DOES IT WORK?**

A. Each intersection is outfitted with a high resolution high speed digital camera. The cameras are activated by sensors which are located at the intersection. The cameras are only activated when a vehicle is detected by the sensors after the light has turned red. The camera takes two digital photos which document the violation. The program operates 24 hours a day seven days a week and operates in all weather conditions. The system is only activated when a vehicle runs a red light and all intersections with red light cameras are clearly marked. The Seattle Police Department reviews every violation before the citation is issued. Citations contain images of the violation vehicle before it enters the intersection, while it is in the intersection, and the license plate.

**Q. ARE RED LIGHT CAMERAS EFFECTIVE?**

A. Yes. Red light cameras have been proven to be effective in reducing red light violations and right-angle crashes. Cities using these systems consistently report safer roads with fewer intersections collisions.

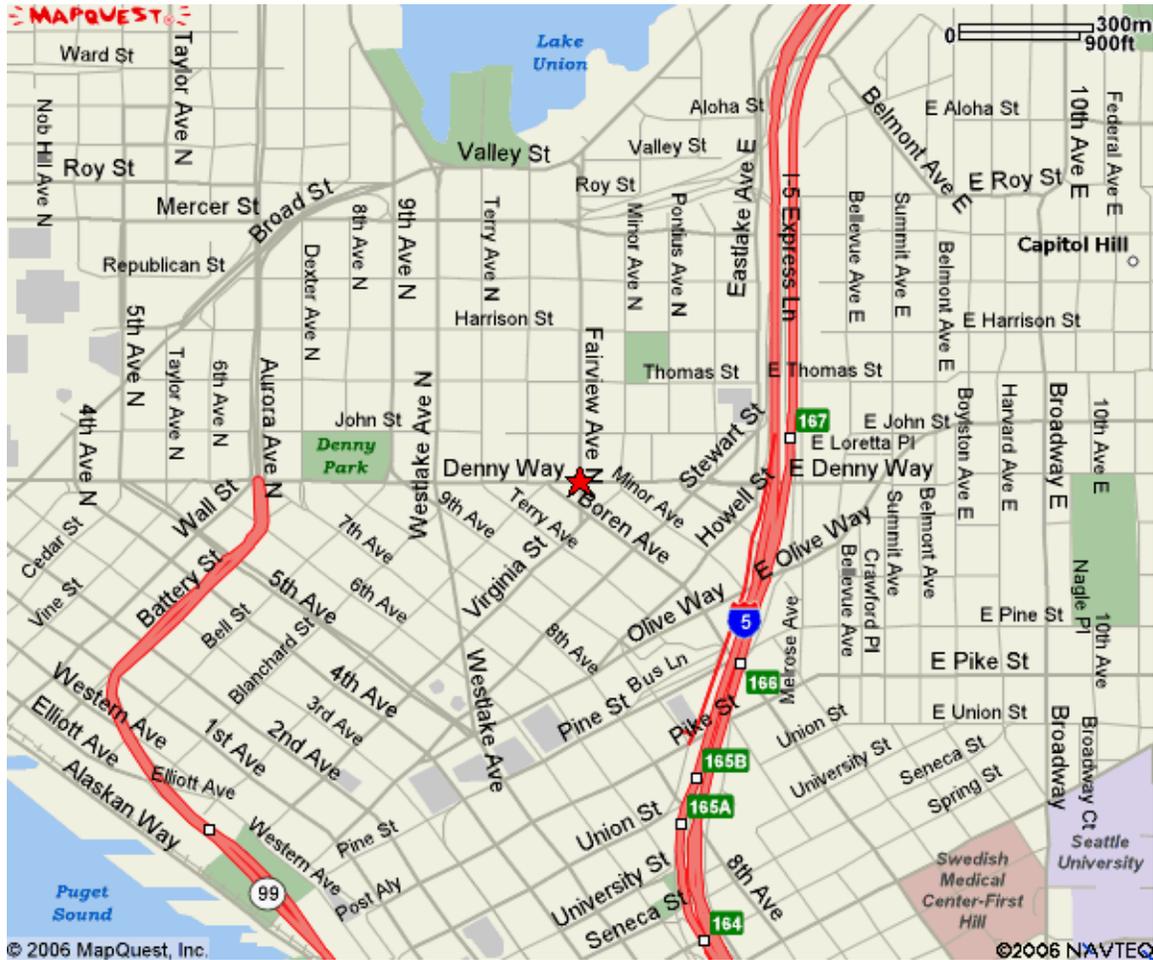
**Q. IF I AM ALREADY IN THE INTERSECTION WHEN A LIGHT TURNS RED, WILL I GET A CITATION?**

A. No. Citations are only issued when a vehicle enters the intersection AFTER the light has turned red. If you enter the intersection on a green or yellow light you will not be photographed by the camera system.

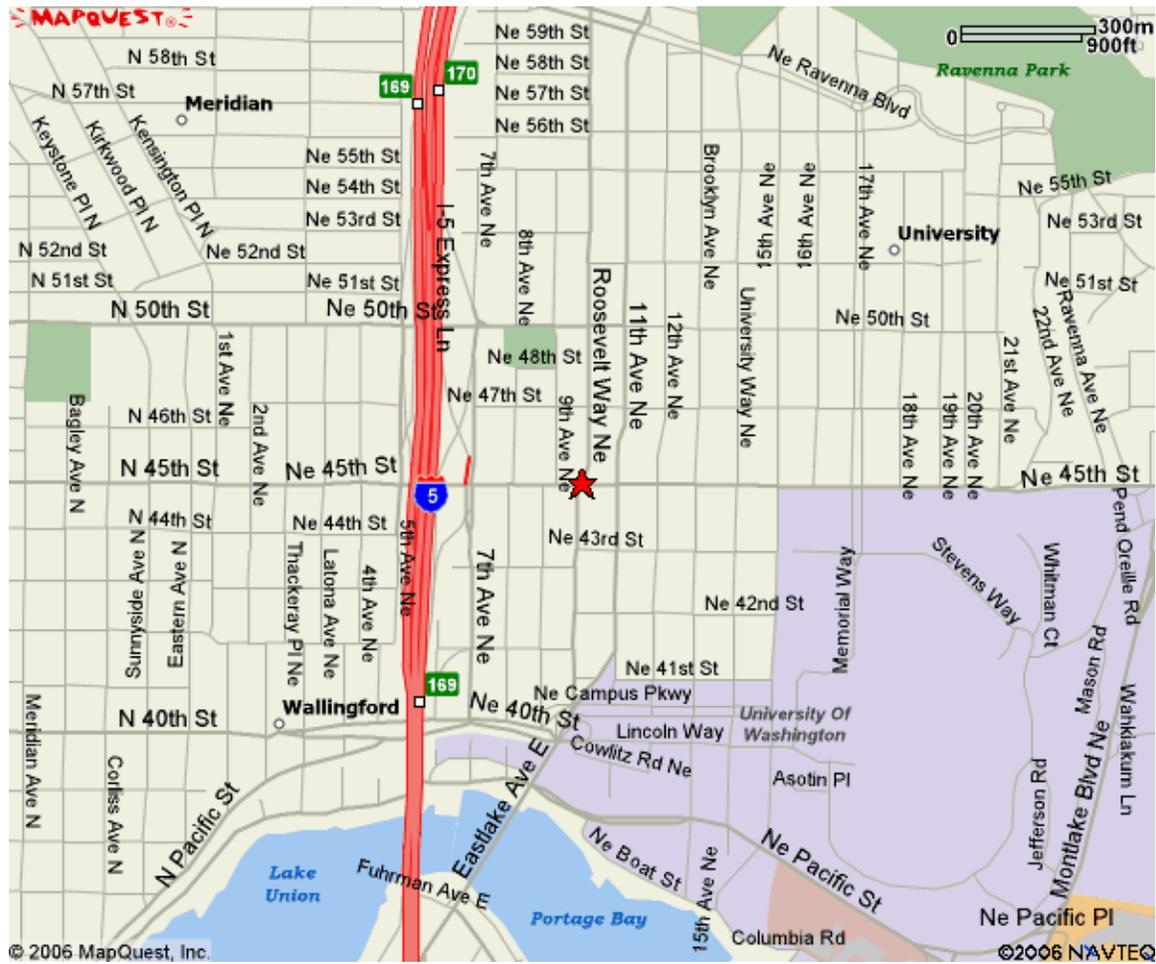
**Q. WILL INTERSECTIONS THAT HAVE RED LIGHT CAMERAS BE PUBLICIZED?**

A. Yes, locations will be announced and listed in the local newspaper, on the city website, and in the city newsletter. In addition, they are below:

**Eastbound and Westbound Denny Way & Fairview Ave, Seattle WA 98109**



Eastbound Roosevelt Way NE & NE 45<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle WA 98105





Eastbound 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Spring St., Seattle WA 98104

