



## Red Light Cameras Help the SLMPD

When Officer David Haynes was killed by a hit and run driver in May 2010 while pursuing a burglary suspect, detectives used an unlikely source to get a description of the vehicle and path of travel - red light cameras.

In the spring of 2012, a deadly crash caught on tape by a red light safety camera in north city helped police and prosecutors solve an outstanding murder case.

Just this past December, video from a red light camera at Skinker & Delmar allowed the police to share with the public to generate leads, video evidence of a shooting that generated over 20,000 views on line. And the police also shared video of the most dangerous red light running of 2013 and generated over 75,000 views in an attempt to remind drivers to stop on red.

On over 150 occasions in just the last few years, the St. Louis Police Department has, requested video from the red light cameras to assist in investigations. They have been utilized in simple accident reconstruction to the more serious investigations of robberies, shooting, homicides and other police work. These videos have proven to be an effective tool. The video requests are also referenced in police reports and entered in to evidence to satisfy conflicting testimony.

Revenue from the cameras go to general revenue, which funds city services, including the police department. The police

department reviews every violation and only they determine if a citation is issued, and they reject about 25% of what they review.

Most people have a strong opinion when it comes to red light cameras, but there is one undisputable fact. Violations go down at intersections which use red light safety cameras.

The most significant indicator that shows red-light cameras are changing driver behavior in

St. Louis and making our streets safer is the small number of repeat offenders. According to a recent report, 84 percent of drivers who received and paid just one red-light running ticket - did not get a second ticket. This number is especially significant considering some of these safety cameras have been operational well over six years. This is accomplished through enforcement, education and public awareness.

At some of the earliest intersections to install cameras in north and south city, citations are down over 80%,. Similarly, in the six years since cameras were first installed, the average number of citations issued per camera per month citywide has decreased by nearly 60 percent from 539 to 224. While at the same time, the number of cameras in operation in the city has increased.

Like them or not, red light safety cameras have helped the St. Louis City Police Department.