

JCPD Traffic Safety Camera Program

"Making Johnson City Streets Safer"

What is red light running?

A violation occurs when a motorist enters an intersection after the signal light has turned red. Motorists trapped inadvertently in an intersection when the signal changes to red (e.g., waiting to turn left) are not red light runners.

What are red light cameras and how do they work?

Red light cameras help communities enforce traffic laws by automatically photographing vehicles whose drivers run red lights. A red light camera system is connected to the traffic signal and to sensors that monitor traffic flow at the crosswalk or stop line. The system continuously monitors the traffic signal 24/7, and the camera itself is triggered by any vehicle entering the intersection after the signal has turned red.

Photographs taken by the system show the red light violator in the intersection, and record the date, time of day, time elapsed since the beginning of the red signal, and vehicle speed. Tickets are sent by mail to owners of the violating vehicles, following a review of the photographic evidence by trained police officers. The traffic light must be red prior to a vehicle entering the intersection before a citation will be issued.

When approaching a traffic light and the light turns yellow, what should I do to avoid a citation?

When the yellow light is observed, remember this means proceed with caution. You should begin to slow and prepare to stop for the light or proceed with caution depending on how close you are to the traffic signal prior to making entry into the intersection. You should at all times avoid slamming on your brakes and coming to an abrupt stop.

How are violators notified?

The violator will receive the notification in the mail. The citation will have three photos of the violator's vehicle:

- a) entering into the intersection with the traffic signal being red,
- b) a picture of the vehicle's tag number, and
- c) a photo of the vehicle in the intersection with the light being red.

The violator will also be able to go online and view a short video of the vehicle running the red light. Payment, website, and City Court information are printed on the mailed notification.

Will a photo-enforced red light running violation show up on my driving record?

No, these citations are civil in nature, the same as a parking ticket.

Will a photo-enforced red light running violation affect my auto insurance rates?

No, these citations are civil in nature and do not go on your driving record.

Will I receive a photo-enforced citation for turning right on red?

State law allows a right turn on red *after coming to a complete stop* and making sure you are clear to proceed. Police officers may enforce this upon observation on the roadway.

Regarding photo-enforced citations, Tennessee Code Annotated (55-8-198), in a change effective July 1, 2011, states: "Any other traffic citation for failure to make a complete stop at a red signal before making a permitted right turn as provided by § 55-8-110(a)(3)(A) that is based solely upon evidence obtained from an unmanned traffic enforcement camera shall be deemed invalid."

What is the cost of a photo-enforced red light violation?

The cost of the citation is a \$50.00 civil penalty which may be paid online, by telephone, in person at the Police Department, or by mail.

How long do I have to pay the citation?

The date the citation is issued, you have thirty (30) days to pay the penalty, with a five (5) day grace period before the second notice will be issued.

What if I want to contest the violation?

You will be given a date to come to City Court, and have an opportunity to view the video of the infraction and make your case.