

Frequently asked questions:

Wouldn't it be more effective for the light to stay yellow longer?

Yellow light timing is based on the physical characteristics of the intersection and driver behavior. A driver needs sufficient time to see a yellow light and safely determine whether to stop or proceed through the intersection. Increasing yellow light times beyond what is reasonable can actually increase the number of red light runners because of the longer delay that drivers experience at intersections.

What can I do if I believe the citation was issued erroneously?

You may request a hearing. If you receive the notice of violation erroneously or if you have legal justification for going through the red light (i.e., an approaching emergency vehicle forces you through the light), then you are not liable for the civil penalty.

How much is the fine? What about my driving record?

Violators will be assessed a \$75 civil penalty. Because the violation is a civil matter, it is treated much like a parking ticket. It does not count as a moving violation and will not be reported to the insurance company.

Where can I get more information?

You may contact the City of Baytown Police Department at 281.420.6664.

We encourage you to practice safe driving and obey all signals, warning signs and law enforcement officials. Your life or someone else's life may depend on it.



Produced by the City of Baytown

**When you
see red....**



Stop

Why are Red Light Safety Cameras Needed?

There have been more than 1,000,000 accidents and more than 1,000 deaths attributed to red light runners that occur each year in the United States.

The estimated annual financial costs related to red light runners in Texas are between \$1.4 billion and \$3 billion for medical, insurance and other related expenses.

Running a red light endangers the lives and property of the drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

Information resources:

2005 Federal Highway Administration statistics

Texas House of Representatives-Texas Research Organization

How red light cameras work

Traffic signals are timed by the City's traffic engineers through careful study of each individual intersection using nationally recognized procedures.

Red light safety cameras scan intersection approaches through advanced detection and imaging technology.

The safety cameras only photograph a vehicle if it enters the intersection after the light has turned red. A second photograph is taken as the vehicle progresses through the intersection.

Vehicles that enter an intersection on a yellow light are not photographed even if they are still in the intersection when the light changes to red. The technology is designed to record motorists if they intentionally enter an intersection after the signal turns red.

The camera photographs the vehicle from the rear—it does not photograph the driver or the passengers from the front. The camera records the date,



time, lane number, location and speed of the vehicle.

This information is included on the notice of violation and is then evaluated by sworn members of the Police Department to verify that a violation has occurred and to determine whether a notice of violation should be mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle.