


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Khalil A. Zaied, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 12-0079R		

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 City Hall

January 3, 2013

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 12-0079R. This bill, Investigative Hearing – Speed Camera Program, calls the Department of Transportation (DOT) to report to the City Council on the City of Baltimore’s Speed Camera Program, and to discuss both the effectiveness of the program and how the program can be improved and made more efficient and effective.

DOT supports this resolution, and welcomes the opportunity to discuss its reforms to the speed camera program with the City Council Land Use and Transportation Committee.

As of January 1, 2013, Baltimore City officially transitioned to Brekford Corporation based in Hanover, Maryland for automated enforcement.

As you may know, this RFP and award process has been underway for many months and under the new contract, Brekford will provide new and improved speed cameras, red light cameras, software management systems and quality control processes. The City will have all new speed camera systems that utilize state of the art, patented tracking radars. Brekford, as well as the City and Baltimore Police Department, will incorporate additional reviews into its business processes to ensure error-free citation issuance. In addition, Brekford will bring all existing red light cameras under its own operations within the next three months. These cameras will also be replaced over an 18-month period.

Baltimore City first installed speed cameras in 2010. Between 2008 and 2011, annual traffic fatalities in Baltimore City dropped from 49 to 25, and 2011 was the first year in a decade that traffic fatalities totaled less than 30. Speeding events at fixed camera locations decreased by 80% from May 2010 to September 2011, and 75% at portable camera locations.

The program has demonstrated impressive improvements in traffic safety after being implemented for just under two years. But sadly, hundreds of thousands of motorists continue to speed in school zones throughout the city. It’s dangerous, and we have an obligation to make our streets safe.

In September, Mayor Rawlings-Blake appointed a task force of transportation and safety stakeholders to review the entire program. Members of the task force are evaluating the city’s camera enforcement programs by reviewing camera locations, citation accuracy rates, program management and performance. Committee members are also reviewing program data trends to ensure that the systems are designed to help reduce speeds and improve safety. The task force review is ongoing and we look forward to sharing forthcoming recommendations for improvements.

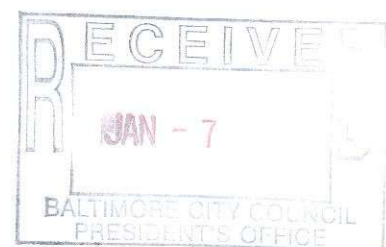
The Department of Transportation finds any error unacceptable, and will do everything possible to prevent technical equipment errors and ensure that the program continues to improve traffic safety in Baltimore.

Respectfully,

Khalil A. Zaied
Director

KAZ/BZ

Cc: Ms. Angela C. Gibson
Mr. Robert Maloney
Mr. Frank Murphy



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