



# River Forest Police Department

## RLC FAQ

What is automated photo enforcement? Automated Red Light Photo Enforcement is a program implemented by the Village of River Forest to monitor certain intersections which meet IDOT criteria for automated enforcement. The system utilizes sensors located in the pavement which activate upon approach to the intersection. When a violation occurs two cameras record the event. One camera takes photos of the vehicle, the license plate and the intersection. The second camera records a 19 second video clip of the violation.

What is the goal of automated photo enforcement? The theory behind traffic enforcement is to change a driver's behavior. The goal of automated photo enforcement is to improve driving habits, reduce serious accidents, and enforce traffic laws.

What is the Illinois law authorizing automated traffic enforcement? The Illinois statute that allows municipalities to utilize automated traffic enforcement is 625 ILCS 5/11-208.6

Isn't the main purpose of red light cameras to make money? Like all traffic violations, such as speeding, improper turns, or disobeying stop signs, red light cameras do have a revenue component. Revenue is generated through fines based on a violation of traffic laws. Fines are the traditional method of encouraging motorists to obey the law.

How are red-light camera intersections chosen? Prior to installing red-light cameras there is a lengthy permitting process which includes a traffic study, traffic counts, and historical accident data. All the information is submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation for approval.

Where are the cameras located in River Forest? There are two photo enforcement camera systems in River Forest. The first is located on east bound North Ave. at Harlem Ave. The second is located on south bound Harlem Ave. at Lake St.

When a violation occurs, who receives the citation? The registered owner receives the violation; similar to how a parking citation is issued to the registered owner of the vehicle.



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What if the registered owner was not driving the vehicle? The registered owner is still responsible for the vehicle even if someone other than the owner was driving. Therefore the owner is responsible for the fine.

Who reviews those images? Our vendor, SafeSpeed LLC, initially reviews the videos for violations, obtains and verifies registration info. The videos which show a violation, along with the registration info, is then sent to our department for a second review by a trained traffic enforcement analyst who has several years of law enforcement experience. The analyst gives the final approval or denial. If the violation is approved, a notice of violation is then sent to the registered owner. Approximately half of the images/videos sent to the department by our vendor receive final approval as a violation by our traffic analyst.

Can I turn right on red? Unless the intersection is marked otherwise (such as No Turn on Red) Illinois law allows a motorist to turn right on a red light, **after coming to a complete stop**. A red light is exactly like a stop sign. You must stop before turning. Intersections must also be clear of pedestrians in the walkway before safely turning right.

Could you make the yellow light longer to alleviate some of the violations? River Forest does not control the timing of the yellow lights. The traffic lights are controlled by IDOT and the timing of the traffic signal is set based on IDOT standards. River Forest is not able to change the timing of the yellow light in any way.

So-called “rolling stop” right turns on red aren’t that dangerous if there are no traffic or pedestrians present—why issue tickets for them? A vehicle cannot be “rolling” and “stopped” at the same time. Consequently it is not considered a complete stop (total cessation of movement) and therefore it is a violation of the law. In addition, when a driver is looking to the left to see if traffic is clear to make the turn, they are not paying attention to pedestrians and cyclists approaching from the right attempting to cross the street. Striking a pedestrian or cyclist is dangerous and avoidable.



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What if I am waiting in the intersection to turn left and the light turns yellow/red? If you have already entered the intersection before or during the yellow light the system will not record a violation as having occurred. If you enter the intersection after a light has changed from yellow to red it will trigger a violation.

Are red light camera violations considered a moving violation and will it go on my record? No, a red light violation is not reported to the Secretary of State and therefore does not affect your driving record. It is similar to a parking ticket.

I have received a violation notice. What does this mean? On the back of the notice of violation there are instructions how to view the video online, contest by mail, in person or pay the fine. There is also a phone number to call to answer further questions. You should read and follow the instructions carefully.

What are the penalties for these violations? The Automated Traffic Enforcement statute allows a set fine of \$100.00 but allows the fine to increase to \$200.00 if the violation is not paid within 30 days after you have been found liable.

Can I pay my fine at the police station? There are a number of ways to pay the fine. You may come to River Forest Village Hall to pay in person, you may pay-online, or pay by mail.

What happens at the hearing? On the day of the hearing there will be a Hearing Officer who will have the ability to review the violation. The Hearing Officer is well versed in the Illinois Vehicle Code. The Hearing Officer will review a video of the violation and allow you to explain why you feel the violation is issued in error. He/she will then make a finding of liability (meaning you have to pay the fine) or non-liable (meaning the violation is dismissed). You will also receive a flyer that indicates how to pay the fine.

What if I want to appeal the violation? After you contest the violation at a hearing and have been found liable, you may file an appeal at the Cook County 4<sup>th</sup> District Courthouse located at 1500 Maybrook Dr. Maywood Il.