



RUSSELL W. STAMPER, II
ALDERMAN, 15TH DISTRICT

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Red light cameras would help Milwaukee curb reckless driving

**Statement from Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II
February 6, 2023**

I want to applaud the recent effort of a group of bipartisan lawmakers in Madison who introduced the Safe Roads Save Lives Act. If passed, this legislation would allow the Milwaukee Police Department to use computerized radar and photo ID cameras to detect when someone is driving over the speed limit or when they run a red light.

Reckless driving continues to plague all parts of our city, and continues to lead to unnecessary injury and loss of life. Whenever I hear about a fatal auto accident, or see crash debris at intersections throughout my district, I grow increasingly frustrated because I know many of these instances were avoidable.

The city has worked to make sizable investments and policy decisions to combat this issue. Milwaukee police officers now have the ability to tow unregistered vehicles and other cars cited for reckless driving, excessive speed, fleeing from officers and drag racing. The Traffic Safety Unit has had a successful first year. And tens of millions of dollars in engineering solutions including speed bumps, curb extensions, traffic circles, restriping to fewer travel lanes, and more have been and will continue to be installed citywide in compliance with the Complete Streets Program.

Even with the progress that has been made we can always use more tools in our tool belt, and that is what the red light cameras would be – not the only solution, but another way in which we can hold reckless drivers accountable and deter their behavior.

While we work on these solutions at City Hall I will also continue my call to the community. We need to talk to young men and young women about following basic, essential traffic rules. I will also keep urging people to be defensive drivers, and I hope the community joins me in spreading this message.

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