

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



Office of Suffolk County Legislator Kevin J. McCaffrey, 14th District

For Immediate Release
Date: October 13, 2015

Contact: Gregory Atherton
Phone: 631-854-1100

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR MCCAFFREY CALLS FOR RED LIGHT CAMERA REFORM



Pictured From Left to Right: Legislator Tom Muratore; Jim O'Connor; Legislator Leslie Kennedy; Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (speaking); Legislator Trotta; and Legislator Cilmi.

Riverhead, NY: Suffolk County Legislator Kevin McCaffrey (R-Lindenhurst) was recently joined by his colleagues at a press conference held at the Suffolk County Legislature, to reveal plans for a major overhaul of the red light camera program. The conference was widely attended by members of the television, radio, and print media from outlets both local and regional.

Much attention has been focused on Suffolk County's red light cameras since the rise of a local media sensation, Stephen Ruth (a.k.a. "Red Light Robin Hood"), whose videos have been

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making the rounds on television and social media forums. However, the controversy regarding the camera system has been brewing since its inception in 2010. While the stated purpose of the cameras was to increase traffic safety, the placement of the cameras, the timing of the yellow lights, and language in the contract have led some to conclude that revenue was the real driving force.

“Suffolk County residents were led to believe that safety was the objective, but the facts coming to light recently are real causes for concern,” said McCaffrey. “I have a had many constituents share their experiences with inconsistently timed yellow lights, or getting ticketed for stopping less than 2 seconds before making a right turn. This is not the hallmark of a system designed to increase safety, but one to generate money.”

With Suffolk County’s out of control spending and borrowing, it is digging itself deeper into debt with every passing year, and some within government apparently feel irresponsible financial practices can continue as long as revenue is forthcoming. Among those participating in the press conference, there was a clear consensus that the red light camera program is being viewed as a cash cow.

“Making the residents pay for the government’s bad practices is never acceptable, and it is without question an abomination to make them forfeit their hard-earned dollars under the guise of safety. These concerns should be addressed immediately, otherwise the program should be suspended indefinitely until they are,” added McCaffrey.

To add insult to injury, many of Suffolk County’s numerous red light cameras are placed directly in front of homes. The residents in these unfortunate cases must endure the incessant flashing of lights and possibly damage to their property values. Included in the reform package revealed at the conference would be a component that would specifically address this issue.

“It’s going to take some time to get the changes we need, but the sooner we act, the sooner our residents will get a more honest system,” McCaffrey explained. “I fully encourage anyone with any other issues not addressed by today’s conference to reach out to anyone in our caucus. Our job is to both respect the rule of law, but also to heed the concerns of the citizens.”

Legislator McCaffrey represents Suffolk County’s 14th Legislative District which encompasses the Village of Lindenhurst, Babylon Village, the hamlets of West Babylon and North Lindenhurst, portions of Copiague, North Babylon, and Babylon’s barrier beach communities.