



AVON POLICE DEPARTMENT

60 West Main Street

AVON CONNECTICUT 06001

TELEPHONE
(860) 409-4200

EMERGENCY
911

FACSIMILE
(860) 409-4206



"To Protect and To Serve"

February 27, 2006

Judicial Committee
95 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. On behalf of the Town of Avon and the Avon Police Department, I am here today to support Bill No. 5210 "An Act Concerning Enforcement of Speeding and Traffic Control Signal Violations."

While the area of greatest concern in this request is that of Avon Mountain Road, the Town and its citizens would benefit should the use of this technology be authorized within our borders, at many intersections and other areas of concern. Avon Mountain Road, also known as U.S. Route 44, is a heavily traveled main artery connecting suburban areas to our capital city.

Recent data collected reveals that 61 percent of motorists traveling on Avon Mountain Road exceed the legal speed limit by at least 10 miles per hour. This data is remarkable and consistent with data analysis provided by the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, showing that 85 percent of vehicles westbound in the area of Pine Tree Lane travel at 55 miles per hour. The posted speed limit on this roadway is 40 miles per hour.

The stretch of road from the intersection of Waterville Road in Avon, eastbound to West Hartford, is the site of many accidents – indeed far too many fatal accidents. Contributing factors in these accidents is all too often excessive speed. Additionally, a large number of accidents occur at the intersection of Route 10 (Waterville Road) and U.S. Route 44. This intersection is controlled by a traffic signal.

Empirical data collected from July 1 to December 31, 2005 shows Avon Police Officers responded to a total of 29 accidents. Four included injuries and sadly another 3 were fatalities in which a total of 6 people died. Additionally, during the past 7 years, over 190 accidents have occurred and 11 people have perished in them.

To combat this alarming trend, Avon Police Officers conduct special traffic assignments. Between the period July 1 to December 31, 2005, 201 vehicles were stopped by police predominately for speeding. While this may seem impressive to some, the fact is it is a small percentage of the approximate 25,000 – 30,000 cars a day that travel this route. The problem is not lack of motivation, but lack of time and resources. Each stop may take up to 15 minutes to complete. While the officer is “tied up” with one violation, many more speed by. This is not to say that police presence on our roads are not a deterrent; however, as you know, the police can’t be on the mountain 24 hours a day, 7 days a week but this technology can.

Thus, an automated speed and traffic control signal enforcement, along with public awareness, education and consistent and regular law enforcement efforts is something the citizens of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Avon deserve and expect. This technology will provide a tool for law enforcement in our compelling desire to fulfill our most important mission – protection of the lives of our citizens and safeguard the property they own.

Accordingly I support this bill and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rinaldo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Rinaldo
Acting Chief of Police

MR/vtm