



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

March 2, 2010

Senator Don DeFronzo
Representative Antonio Guerrero
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB 345 - "AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE USE OF AUTOMATED TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL ENFORCEMENT DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS."

Dear Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero and members of the Committee:

New Haven, like many of our state's towns and cities, is facing an urgent problem with traffic violations. Driving behaviors in our city have degraded to such a degree that it is threatening our economic development, keeps our children from comfortably playing outside and is detrimental to our quality of life.

With these concerns in mind, we write you today to urge your support for Proposed Senate Bill 345, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Conduct a Pilot Program for the Use of Automated Traffic Control Signal Enforcement Devices at Certain Intersections.

Passage of this bill will allow our city to protect our citizens in a more efficient, effective, and safe manner than other tactics currently at our disposal. It is simply not cost effective to place a police officer on every corner to catch drivers who are committing traffic violations. While technology will never replace police enforcement, we should not deny ourselves the efficiencies of technology to affect changes on our streets.

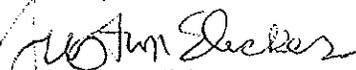
The negative effects of lawless driving fall most heavily on our dense, urban centers. Our police force does an admirable job dealing with a host of very serious problems: illegal drugs, prostitution and gun violence.

Placing the additional burden of traffic enforcement on them without giving them access to the best technology to do this, is frankly unacceptable and represents a serious prejudice against urban dwellers. Without reasonable traffic enforcement, we are forced to live in an environment with a radically diminished quality of life. This bill has much support in our city -- including that of our Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Our Board passed a resolution encouraging your support of this bill in January without opposition in committee and by an overwhelming majority of the full body. Today, we reiterate that request on behalf of our city and its residents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Hon. Justin Elicker
Ward 10, Alderman


Hon. Michael Jones
Ward 1, Alderman