

Should governments
be allowed to use
cameras to give
tickets to those who
run red...

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CAMERAS IN TRAFFIC LIGHTS ID Number: of of Word Count: 331 Submission:
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CAMERAS IN TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The central issue on the case of the government installing cameras in traffic lights is the use of governmental power to impose its authority on the citizenry. People have always chafed at a government always looking behind their shoulders, the concept of “ Big Brother” in which the freedom and civil liberties of the people are thought to be compromised. However, there are no good ways of making people comply with traffic laws than to present incontrovertible evidence that they had run a red light. Previously, police officers had to chase down motorists who tried to beat a traffic light but evidence taken by a camera installed in traffic lights is hard to contravene. It is one good way to avoid controversy and disputes, especially with fines becoming quite hefty.

People who live in civilized society need to comply with its laws. By agreeing to do so, it is incumbent upon citizens to obey traffic laws because this is all part of the social contract. Its aim is to impose order; otherwise, societies can become chaotic when laws are disregarded. This social contract implies the surrender of certain freedoms in order to be governed. The ability to strictly enforce the laws, such as those on taxation, is an example of the social contract features (Krugman 1) for society to function in a decent manner. This means all people should comply to all laws and nobody is exempted from compliance. The key players are those local governments and its citizens, with the issue being compliance with the social contract. The expectations are a good citizen will avoid violating traffic laws and the

government hopes to raise some revenues. When drivers are aware that cameras are installed at intersections, they are more likely to drive a bit carefully and less prone to beat a red light (Schlundt, Warren & Miller 77); it is a good way to reduce unintentional injuries, similar to wearing helmets or putting on seat belts for safety.

Works Cited

Krugman, Paul. "The Social Contract." *The New York Times*, p. A35. 22 Sept. 2011. Web. 27 Sept. 2011. Schlundt, David G., Warren, Rueben C. And Stephania Miller. "Reducing Unintentional Injuries on the Nations Highways: a Literature Review." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 15. 1 (February 2004): 76-98. Print.