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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Red light cameras to go “Live” Wednesday, October 15, 2008

(Cleveland, TN) – The recently installed cameras at heavily traveled intersections in Cleveland will “go live” on Wednesday, according to Cleveland City Manager Janice Casteel. “Until now we have been testing the system, making adjustments and fine-tuning, to ensure the new system will be operable and, to the best we can with the new technology, ensure the integrity of the system.”

Known as the “Safe Street” street program, the installation of the cameras is designed to help reduce crashes and save lives at the city’s five most dangerous and high traffic intersections. The cameras photograph vehicles as they cross the intersection, automatically taking the picture of any vehicles caught in the intersection after the light has turned red.

“The system seems to work very well,” said Casteel. “We have been sending out warnings to drivers and receiving their input as we fine-tuned the system.” Casteel notes that when a complaint was received that the yellow light wasn’t the four seconds it is supposed to be, and other citizen concerns, the city would check the system at that intersection. “We are confident that the system is working, and working as it should,” said Casteel.

Beginning Wednesday, drivers caught running the red lights at the five intersections, will receive a copy of the photo and a citation totaling \$50. The fine is established by state law (TCA 55-8-198). Under that law, the person cited has 60 days to pay the fine. On the 61st day and beyond the driver is required to appear in court where, if found guilty, will face a fine and fees totaling \$154.75. “People should also know that the citation does not carry any points against their driver’s license either,” said Casteel. “If a police officer saw them run the light, the fine would be higher and there would be points.

“Of course the purpose of the program is to get drivers to slow down at intersections and not race through the yellow trying to beat the red light,” said Casteel. According to police reports, most of the crashes in major intersections are due to drivers trying to beat the red light.

The intersections with operating cameras that will begin official operations on Wednesday are: 25th Street at Peerless Road; Keith Street at 20th Street; Keith Street at Raider Drive; Paul Huff Parkway/Stuart Road at North Lee Highway; and Keith Street at 25th Street.

“We are looking at other problem intersections in Cleveland and hope to one day have crash reduction systems in place at all of them,” said Casteel.

Office of the City Manager

October 10, 2008