

## Village to Implement Red-Light Cameras

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The Hanover Park Board of Trustees passed a resolution Thursday to use red-light cameras at various intersections in the Village.

The Village has agreed to use cameras from GATSO USA, Inc. which boasts the production of "the world's most sophisticated traffic-enforcement systems."

The company reached a five-year agreement with the Village that includes two optional one-year extensions.

The automated cameras will be used to track drivers who run red lights at intersections.

Once the vehicle is spotted by the camera, a notice is sent to the Village with images and video of the scene.

The Village has the final say if the owner of the vehicle deserves a citation or not. Violators are fined \$100 according to state statute.

A special feature will be added to the cameras to active the Amber Alert System. This system allows the Village to switch from red-light enforcement to a crime-control function to help locate the license plate of a serious criminal offender.

GATSO USA is recognized by many national and international police councils as one of the best red-light-camera-enforcement services in the world.

Hanover Park Police Chief Ronald Moser said they are also known to be one of the most reliable services around.

The state-statute signs must be set up, warning drivers of the red-light cameras. This helps ensure the driver not only is aware of the special enforcement, but they also control their speed before approaching the intersection.

All the trustees in attendance supported the red-light camera enforcement.

Trustee Lori Kaiser thinks more surrounding villages should sign on for these cameras.

"I hope adjacent towns take a look at this," Kaiser said. "If they get in on this, it could help with Amber Alert enforcement."

Like most red-light enforcement systems, there really are no direct costs. The cost of the cameras is not done upfront and is usually paid for once the system is enforced. Mayor Rodney Craig feels that with a system like this, costs are not an issue.

"I do not care about the cost," he said. "What I care about is the safety of the people who are driving. These cameras definitely will alleviate road behavior."

Village Clerk Sherry Craig agrees with her husband that these cameras will help regulate behavior on the road and cannot wait for them to be installed.

"I know I am looking forward to seeing these new intersections," Sherry Craig said. "Those cameras will help keep people safe. There are a lot of people running red lights at some of the busy intersections."

Red-light-enforcement cameras will be placed at several intersections throughout the Village.

Based on the preliminary studies conducted by the Village, County Farm and Schick Roads, County Farm and Army Trail Roads, Barrington Road and Lake Street and Barrington and Irving Park Roads are prime intersections for the cameras.