

INTRODUCED: December 15, 2025

AN ORDINANCE No. 2025-287

To amend City Code § 27-131, concerning the traffic signal enforcement program, for the purpose of establishing the manner in which civil penalties are allocated.

Patron – Mayor Avula

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: FEB 9 2026 AT 6 P.M.

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That section 27-131 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020) be and hereby is **amended** as follows:

Sec. 27-131. Traffic Signal Enforcement Program.

(a) *Establishment.* There is hereby established a traffic signal enforcement program pursuant to and in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 15.2-968.1. The program shall include the installation and operation of traffic light signal violation monitoring systems in a number up to the maximum number of traffic light signal violation monitoring systems permitted by State law. No traffic light signal violation monitoring system shall be implemented at an intersection until all

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: _____ REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

prerequisites for the implementation of such traffic light signal violation monitoring system at such intersection have been fulfilled.

(b) *Implementation.* The Chief Administrative Officer shall:

- (1) Have the authority to implement the provisions of this section;
- (2) Promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to administer the traffic signal enforcement program in compliance with all requirements of Code of Virginia, § 15.2-968.1 and this section; and
- (3) Be responsible for the compliance of all aspects of the traffic signal enforcement program with applicable State law.

(c) *Private contractor.* The City may enter into an agreement with a private entity for the installation and operation of traffic light signal violation monitoring systems and related services as permitted by Code of Virginia, § 15.2-968.1(I). However, any such agreement shall be:

- (1) Procured only in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 21; and
- (2) Subject to the restrictions imposed by Code of Virginia, § 15.2-968.1(I).

(d) *Penalties.*

(1) *For failure to comply with traffic light signal.* The operator of a vehicle shall be liable for a monetary penalty imposed pursuant to Code of Virginia, § 15.2-968.1 and this section if such vehicle is found, as evidenced by information obtained from a traffic light signal violation monitoring system, to have failed to comply with a traffic light signal within the City. No monetary penalty imposed under this section shall exceed \$50.00, nor shall it include court costs.

(2) *For disclosure of personal information.* Any person who discloses personal information collected by a traffic light signal violation monitoring system in violation of

the provisions of Code of Virginia, § 15.2-968.1(H) shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$1,000.00.

(3) Civil penalties collected under this section resulting from a summons issued by a City police officer shall be paid to the City and placed in a special fund called the Safety Camera Program Special Fund to be applied first to sustaining the photo enforcement program established pursuant to this section and second implementing the strategies set forth in any Vision Zero Action Plan adopted by the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.

§ 2. This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.



City of Richmond

Intracity Correspondence

O&R Transmittal

DATE: September 15, 2025

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

THROUGH: The Honorable Danny Avula, Mayor

THROUGH: Odie Donald, II, Chief Administrative Officer

THROUGH: Tanikia Jackson, DCAO Finance and Administration

THROUGH: Letitia Shelton, Director of Finance

THROUGH: Meghan Brown, Director of Budget and Strategic Planning

FROM: Richard G. Edwards, Chief of Police

RE: Amend City Code Sec. 27-131(d) to direct Safety Camera Program civil penalties first to sustain the Safety Camera Program, and second implement strategies set forth in the adopted Vision Zero Action Plans.

ORD. OR RES. No.

PURPOSE: To amend City Code Sec. 27-131(d) to direct Safety Camera Program civil penalties first to sustain the Safety Camera Program, second to implement strategies set forth in the adopted Vision Zero Action Plan.

REASON: City Council adopted ordinance 2007-179-156 on June 25, 2007, adding a new section of the Code of Richmond, Virginia, establishing a traffic signal enforcement program. The City code establishing the traffic signal enforcement program currently does not dedicate the fines from City Code Sec. 27-131 to sustain the Safety Camera Program and to implement Vision Zero Action Plan strategies. The City of Richmond plans to install devices and begin to issue civil penalties for disregarding red lights in the next several months; however, the program is not sustainable without directing the civil penalties to pay for the Safety Camera Program.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Safety Camera Program Special Fund is established and civil penalties from Section 27-131 be directed to this new special fund.

BACKGROUND: The City of Richmond established a traffic signal enforcement program on 06/25/2007 to enhance public safety. An amendment to City Code Sec. 27-131 is needed to

dedicate anticipated civil penalties to sustain the Safety Camera Program and implement Vision Zero Action Plan strategies.

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: These resulting funds from the civil penalties will increase the FY26 Special Funds Budget.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: The allocation of these funds will allow the Richmond Police Department and the Department of Public Works to sustain the Safety Camera Program and to implement the strategies in the Vision Zero Action Plan.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: Yes. This code amendment will have an accompanying amendment to the FY26 Special Fund Budget.

REVENUE TO CITY: The City of Richmond will add \$2,000,000 to the FY26 Special Funds Budget.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Adoption

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: December 8, 2025

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE: January 12, 2026

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent Agenda

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE: Public Safety

CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Strategic Planning, and the Richmond Police Department

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: This ordinance is requested due to amends ORD 2007-179-156 and ORD 2025-057

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): None.

ATTACHMENTS: ORD 2007-179-156; ORD 2025-057; Safe & Healthy Streets Resolution

STAFF:

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SUPPORTING THE MODIFICATION OF SECTION 27-131 TO DIRECT SAFETY CAMERA PROGRAM PROCEEDS TOWARDS THE VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN SPECIAL FUND

WHEREAS, the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission was established in 1966 to develop and oversee a comprehensive highway safety program for the City of Richmond, conducting quarterly reviews to assess the program's operations and outcomes;

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council remains committed to supporting the Commission's vital efforts, recognizing the importance of maintaining and enhancing transportation safety for all residents;

WHEREAS, in pursuit of a safer Richmond, the City Council has adopted a Vision Zero approach, with the goal of eliminating all traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on city streets by the year 2030;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly and the Governor of Virginia enacted legislation allowing for the implementation of photo speed enforcement cameras for red light running violations;

WHEREAS, the Richmond City Council adopted Section 27-131 to direct proceeds from the Safety Camera Program to the Vision Zero Action Plan Special Fund to support the program and to implement actions found in the Vision Zero Action Plan created and monitored by the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission and implemented by the Vision Zero Task Force;

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond, in collaboration with its local, state, regional, and non-profit partners, is well-positioned to implement the Vision Zero Action Plan using proven and innovative countermeasures, such as the Safety Camera Program to enforce red light running violations;

WHEREAS, effective Vision Zero programs prioritize a range of strategies, including cost-efficient systemic engineering solutions, high-visibility enforcement measures, public communication, education, advocacy, and policy initiatives to create lasting behavioral change;

WHEREAS, the Commission plays a critical role in overseeing the implementation of the Vision Zero Action Plan, ensuring that the built environment is redesigned to promote safe speeds and shift the transportation safety culture in the City of Richmond;

WHEREAS, the Vision Zero Task Force was established to drive forward the Vision Zero Action Plan, actively seeking resources to support a safe speeds approach and foster a cultural shift in traffic safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission strongly supports and encourages Richmond City Council to add the following language to section 27-131

“Civil penalties collected under this section resulting from a summons issued by a City police officer shall be paid to the City and placed in a special fund called the Vision Zero Action Plan Fund to be applied to first sustaining the photo enforcement program established pursuant to this section and second implementing the strategies set forth in any Vision Zero Action Plan adopted by the Safe and Healthy Streets Commission.”

Resolution for Safety Camera Program proceeds to be directed to the Vision Zero Action Plan Special Fund



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission recommends that the Richmond City Council allocate any additional resources necessary to ensure the successful demonstration and implementation of these Vision Zero strategies, reinforcing the City’s commitment to creating safer streets for all.