

We Demand A Vote

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: May 5, 2008

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WeDemandAVote.Com unites behind petition to ban Red Light Cameras

Earlier this year, the Cincinnati branch of the **NAACP** and its **President Christopher Smitherman** announced that they would spearhead a drive to pass an amendment to the Cincinnati Charter to prevent the use of un-manned Red Light Cameras in Cincinnati. This counters a plan announced by Cincinnati City Council in January to implement the use of such devices this year.

Today, the same groups that successfully united behind a repeal of the Super-Sized Jail Tax in 2007 — known as **WeDemandAVote.Com** — announced that they are getting behind the NAACP in this effort. Those groups joining the anti-Red Light Camera petition drive today are: (i) the **Southwest Ohio Green Party**, (ii) **COAST**, (iii) **Hamilton County Business Owners** and (iv) the **Libertarian Party of Southwest Ohio**. In addition, the coalition is proudly adding new partners **Americans for Prosperity — Ohio Chapter** and the **Blue Chip Young Republicans**. Councilmember Chris Monzel also endorsed and joined the effort. The group also announced two Co-Chairs for the drive, **Josh Weitzman, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Southwest Ohio** and **Josh Krekeler, Chairman of the Southwest Ohio Green Party**.

Speaking on behalf of the Coalition, Josh Krekeler said: “Each of our organizations knows that politics as usual in Cincinnati and Hamilton County simply are not working. We need a new direction and a new set of priorities that do not involve needlessly oppressing the citizenry and further constructing a police state. As with the Jail Tax, although we are multi-faceted in our approach to political issues, we all agree that the Red Light Camera initiative by Cincinnati City Council is an unnecessary intrusion into our lives and the wrong direction for our City.”

WeDemandAVote.Com Co-Chairman Josh Weitzman said: “With ticket from a Red Light Camera being a civil offense and not a criminal one, Cincinnatians lose some of their most basic freedoms. You will not be able to face your accuser, as your only accuser will be a camera, you lose your right to a speedy trial, and you no longer have due process. And since you have to pay a ticket before an appeal, you also lose your presumption of innocence until proven guilty.”

Councilmember Chris Monzel, who voted against the cameras, joined the effort, and said: “we want our city to be a warm, friendly and welcome place – not known as the city that sets traps for people at stop lights.” The group has activated the web site **WeDemandAVote.Com** to reach voters directly. At that site they will be able to read about the Red Light Camera issue, link to articles about excesses from camera implementation around the nation, and download a petition and circulation instructions and print them at home or at work.

The petition drive needs approximately 8,600 valid signatures of Cincinnati voters to achieve ballot access, which will require more than 12,000 total signatures to achieve. This compares with 56,000 total signatures and 38,000 valid signatures submitted by the WeDemand coalition last summer on the Jail Tax issue in 2007. Last year, 643 volunteers circulated petitions in the petition drive.

“We are confident that we can put this issue over the top,” said Christopher Smitherman. “These groups bring an energy and breadth of support to this issue. We welcome their support.”



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