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JEFFREY SPAULDING
CHIEF OF POLICE

MEDIA RELEASE

**IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
February 26,
2010

On Monday, March 1, 2010, as part of an on-going comprehensive traffic safety initiative, the Westminster Police Department will activate red light cameras at two intersections within the City.

Red light cameras have been installed to monitor violations on eastbound and westbound MD Route 140 at Malcolm Drive (including the dual left turn lanes) as well as southbound MD Route 97 at Nursery Round (including the left turn lane). The cameras will monitor traffic twenty four hours a day.

Based on extensive research, these two intersections were approved by the Maryland State Highway Administration for the installation of cameras due to a high number of red light running violations as well as crashes that were the result of red light running.

Starting on March 1, 2010 and continuing through March 14, 2010, violators who are detected running red lights at either of these locations will receive a warning notice. Individuals who receive a warning notice during this period will not be subject to a fine or any other penalty, but simply reminded via the warning notice to correct the driving behavior that resulted in their running the red light. Beginning on March 15, 2010, violators will receive citations.

Consistent with Maryland law governing the use of red light cameras, violations are considered a civil infraction and carry a seventy five dollar fine. Citations are sent to the registered owner of the vehicle involved and the registered owner can either pay the fine or stand trial in District Court. Upon paying the fine or a conviction in court, the registered owner will not receive points on their driver's license and their insurance company cannot raise their rates.

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Red light cameras have been utilized in Maryland since 1998 and their usage has resulted in a significant decrease in not only the number of instances of red light running but in red light running related collisions as well.

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