



**DAYTON UNIT NAACP
OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 8, 2018

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***Dayton Unit NAACP Ballot Initiative
Regarding “Photo Enforcement Cameras”***

DAYTON, OHIO - JUNE 5, 2018 - The Dayton Unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has initiated a petition to amend the Charter of the City of Dayton, Ohio to limit the use of photo-monitoring devices (aka “red light cameras” or “photo enforcement cameras”) to detect certain traffic law violations.

As of Tuesday, May 29, 2018, the Dayton Unit NAACP has begun collecting signatures with the end goal being to get this issue on the November ballot, and end the use of these cameras without police being present.


“We need to collect to close to 5,000 signatures from residents of the city of Dayton, in order to get this on the ballot,” said Derrick L. Foward, President of the Dayton Unit NAACP. The reason we need so many signatures, is to ensure we have enough VALID SIGNITURES to place this initiative on the ballot.

While we all agree that safety is a huge concern and must be dealt with swiftly to keep our seniors, our neighbors and our children out of harm’s way, let it not be at the expense of only the poorest communities in Montgomery County, Ohio.

These devices are currently being utilized only within the cities of Dayton and Trotwood, two of the lowest income municipalities in Montgomery County.

If this technology is truly being utilized for safety concerns, then why don’t any of the other municipalities in the county have them?

“I have personally spoken with numerous city managers, law enforcement officials and other leaders from Englewood, Huber Heights, Riverside, Moraine, New Lebanon, West Carrollton, Oakwood and Centerville, to name just a few. None of them are interested in utilizing this technology within their respective communities. I also spoke with leaders from Beavercreek and



Springboro and got the same response. Many of these leaders indicated that from their vantage point, the use of such technology is only to ‘generate revenue,’” said Foward.

Do these other cities not care about the safety of their citizens? Of course, they do. Yet each of these communities has found other ways to deal with those who violate traffic laws.

“We certainly recognize the data indicating that people drive slower, and the accident rate is reduced, when this technology is in force. But people speed, and there are accidents in every community, yet those other communities don’t feel the need to implement such technology. Law enforcement officers must clamp down on those reckless drivers who put many of our Citizens in harm’s way, not devices. The fact is that people who speed or drive reckless, and know where the Photo Enforcement Cameras are located, will change their driving behaviors at that moment in time to avoid a citation. But once they pass the traffic devices, they will resume to their normal driving habits as displayed by people who go to court when they are caught by Law Enforcement Officers who conduct targeted enforcement,” said Foward.

“If any of those other cities in Montgomery County were utilizing this technology – it probably would not be an issue. But when it appears that you're unfairly targeting only the poorest communities, that's where the NAACP has an issue,” said Foward.

Our citizens are already experiencing enough hardship with the lack of opportunity – jobs, access to healthy food, healthcare and other issues. These cameras are just one more thing for the people of Dayton to endure.

“We should all work together to develop a strategy to place more law enforcement officers on the streets to protect and serve the entire community, not just at traffic-light intersections,” said Foward. “The Dayton Unit NAACP supports law enforcement agencies and will do whatever we can to assist in the hiring process to keep our community safe.”

“The bottom line is we believe that this creates a disparate impact on those living in the City of Dayton. The citizens of Dayton deserve to have their voices heard at the ballot box on this issue,” said Foward. If you would like to sign the petition, please visit the Dayton Unit NAACP office located at 1528 W. Third St. between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The number to the Dayton Unit NAACP is (937) 222-2172. You can also contact Committee Members Derrick L. Foward, David K. Greer, Sr., Jamie Simpson, Scott E. Sliver or Frederick E. England, Jr., to sign to petition. The general number to call for committee members is (937) 684-1656. If no answer, please state your name, contact number and which committee member you would like to contact.



Founded in 1915, the Dayton Unit of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the city's oldest and largest nonpartisan civil rights organization. Its members throughout the Dayton Region and Montgomery County are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. Their core goals are to *Inform*, *Educate* and *Empower* the Citizenry as they pursue justice and equality for all Americans.

For more information on the Dayton Unit NAACP, please call (937) 222-2172 or visit www.naacpdayton.org