



Mayor of Providence

Brett P. Smiley

The Honorable Robert E Craven Sr.
House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith St
Providence RI, 02903

Dear Chairman Craven and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 7748—relating to courts and civil procedure—court—state and municipal court compact. This legislation would authorize the use of automated traffic violation monitoring systems for all traffic signal laws, including the “Don’t Block the Box” statute.

In the City of Providence, improving pedestrian and traffic safety remains a key priority for my Administration. First implemented in 2017 by the State of Rhode Island, “Don’t Block the Box” helps protect Providence motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the city by maintain safe traffic flow at our major intersections and prohibiting vehicles from blocking the intersection during traffic light changes. When violations of “Don’t Block the Box” occur, they create dangerous traffic safety concerns and affect the quality of life of Providence residents and businessowners.

The City of Providence was the first municipality in Rhode Island to begin enforcing violations of “Don’t Block the Box” yet enforcement remains a challenge. Robust enforcement of this law requires a large amount of public safety personnel and resources to properly administer and takes those resources away from more violent or time sensitive crimes they would otherwise be investigating.

House Bill 7748 seeks to address these challenges by using camera technology, much like red light and speed cameras, to enforce this existing law. Passing this legislation will allow the city to make progress in changing the behavior that creates unsafe traffic conditions while ultimately improving the quality of life of business owners and residents.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to vote yes on House Bill 7748.

Sincerely,


Brett P. Smiley