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Mr. Chairman and Members of this Committee

--Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you. My name is Carolyn Piper and I am a resident of Las Vegas.

-- Today I would like to appeal to this committee to support Bill 220.

-- Every day I watch as drivers *speed* into intersections, AFTER the light has turned red. There have been a lot of excuses given for this, but none of those reasons justifies breaking the law. These drivers endanger our lives, because they know they CAN. Time after time, there is no consequence, and drivers seem to somehow believe that this behavior is somehow condoned here. My greatest fear, every day, is being rear-ended.

--I have recently trained 2 teen-agers to drive. I would like to tell you what it is like for a parent in this city to instruct teens how to SAFELY run a light. Here's what we need to tell them... Watch behind you and ask yourself,,, who is coming and what type of vehicle are they in,,, how fast are they coming,,, how close are they,,, do you *think* they might run the light,,, and if you think so, *you* need to run the light. I am very uncomfortable thinking of new 16 year old drivers having to make that split second decision. It is a *bad* message to give to our kids, but for any of us to drive defensively, we need to understand we are at risk AT EVERY SINGLE INTERSECTION when the light is changing. It gave me the sickest feeling to give this type of drivers' education to my teens. My daughter was also trained by an experienced driving instructor who has taught well over 1000 teens to drive. He advised her to ask all the above questions. And, if an officer stopped her for running a light, to tell him she did so in order to prevent a collision because she was being tailgated. Why are we putting any of us, let alone our kids, into this position???????? It would be a lot easier to teach new drivers to follow the laws about traffic lights that Nevada has established in the state drivers manual. It states, when approaching an intersection and the light turns yellow, "Do not enter the intersection unless you are too close to stop safely." That law is intended to ensure intersection safety. It is blatantly broken daily. With intersection monitoring, no one would have to make a decision whether to run a light.

--Sergeant Phil George in the Special Problem Solving Unit at metro shared some alarming statistics with me this week. 51% of valley collisions are rear-end collisions. He also told me that there were 3,000 injured teens in car crashes in Las Vegas last year. I hope you will contact him for information that is very relevant to the decision you will make about this Bill.

--A traffic crash can be one of the greatest threats to our lives. I hope that you will give serious consideration to the fact that red light injuries and deaths are increasing. We need to stop talking about this problem and take drastic measures to reverse this trend. Traffic cameras are reasonable enforcement tools. They are a proven method to increase traffic safety. And, they would be an effective deterrent to this common behavior. It should no longer be at the DISGRESSION of a driver whether he obeys the law or not. If people cannot follow simple traffic laws and use common sense about how to approach intersections, then we need a way to help them. Their right to *privacy* should not supercede my right to safety on the streets where I drive everyday. My life depends on this Bill, and so may yours. THANK YOU.

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