

ORDINANCE NO.: 18-2013
INTRODUCED BY: Henry

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 335.09 OF THE TRAFFIC CODE TO PROHIBIT COVERS OR ALTERNATIONS TO LICENSE PLATES WHICH OBSTRUCT THE VISIBILITY OF THE LICENSE PLATE FOR AUTOMATED TRAFFIC CONTROL PHOTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS.

WHEREAS, disobedience to traffic control signals and speed limits occurs frequently within the City of Richmond Heights sometimes resulting in motor vehicle crashes, which have resulted in personal injury and/or substantial property damage; and

WHEREAS, through Ordinance No. 17-2013, enacted _____, 2013, this Council provided for the use of automated traffic control photographic systems to assist the City in increasing compliance with traffic control devices and speed limits; and

WHEREAS, certain products on the market, being license plate covers, sprays, substances or otherwise, are advertised as being able to obscure the visibility of the license plate to automated traffic control photographic systems while permitting the license plate to be visible to the human eye; and

WHEREAS, this Council desires to amend the Traffic Code to prohibit the use of such products.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio; that:

Section 1: Section 335.09 of the "Traffic Code" of the City is amended to read as follows:

335.09 DISPLAY OF LICENSE PLATES.

No person who is the owner or operator of a motor vehicle shall fail to properly display in plain view on the front and rear of the motor vehicle the distinctive number and registration mark, including any county identification sticker and any validation sticker issued under Ohio R.C. 4503.19 and 4503.191, furnished by the Ohio Director of Public Safety, except that a manufacturer of motor vehicles or dealer therein, the holder of an intransit permit, and the owner or operator of a motorcycle, motorized bicycle, manufactured home, mobile home, trailer or semitrailer shall display on the rear only. A motor vehicle that is issued two license plates shall display the validation sticker on the rear license plate. A commercial tractor that does not receive an apportioned license plate under the international registration plan shall be issued one license plate and one validation sticker, which license plate and validation sticker shall be displayed on the front of the commercial tractor. An apportioned vehicle receiving an apportioned license plate under the international registration plan shall display the license plate only

on the front of a commercial tractor and on the rear of all other vehicles. All license plates shall be securely fastened so as not to swing, and shall not be covered by any material that obstructs their visibility; **to the human eye or to any automated traffic control photographic system utilized under Chapter 307 of the Traffic Code.**

No person to whom a temporary license placard or windshield sticker has been issued for the use of a motor vehicle under Ohio R.C. 4503.182, and no operator of that motor vehicle, shall fail to display the temporary license placard in plain view from the rear of the vehicle either in the rear window or on an external rear surface of the motor vehicle, or fail to display the windshield sticker in plain view on the rear window of the motor vehicle. No temporary license placard or windshield sticker shall be covered by any material that obstructs its visibility; **to the human eye or to any automated traffic control photographic system utilized under Chapter 307 of the Traffic Code.**

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

Section 2: It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 3: This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche
President of Council