

Dear Mayor Guthrie, the City of Guelph, Councillor Chew and Councillor O'Rourke,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the speed cameras being installed in various locations around Guelph. While I fully support measures to ensure road safety, I believe that the implementation and operation of these cameras raise significant issues that need to be addressed.

Firstly, I don't believe that these cameras make any lasting difference. When the cameras were installed at Clairfields Dr and Porter Dr last year, my husband and I simply changed our route in order not to be caught with a hefty fine if we accidentally drove a few kilometers over the limit. I frequent the park and field located there with my kids, and I can assure you that it has not changed anyone's driving habits in the slightest now that the cameras have been uninstalled.

Secondly, I was absolutely furious to find out that the revenue from these cameras does not go to the city. An article written in Guelph Today on January 25th, 2024 stated that only 15.6% of the funds went into a road safety fund, with the rest going back to the company who installs and maintains them. A more recent article suggests that this has not changed, and that 80% of the profits go to Redflex and ultimately Verra Mobility. Can you imagine what could be accomplished in this city if the majority of the profits went back to the city? Perhaps some lasting road safety measures? Some safe housing for the increasing homeless population? Mental health and addictions programming? Absolutely any other social service initiatives that Guelph sorely needs? No, instead most of this money is going to a gigantic American company that absolutely does not need it. I would also like to mention, that with the current political climate, supporting any American company is beyond sickening.

While I don't believe speed cameras work, I would honestly be okay with paying any fines I incurred because I agree that people need to follow speed limits and the law needs to be enforced. What I can't get behind is the majority of my money making profits for a company, especially an American one. I urge you to rethink the expansion of this program and come up with solutions that actually change driving habits in the long run, and benefit the city that I love.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
Callandrea Tibbs