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NEWS RELEASE

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RED LIGHT CAMERAS ARE AN ABUSE OF THE DRIVING PUBLIC

Linda Kabot, the designated candidate for the Office of Suffolk County Legislator for the 2nd Legislative District on the Republican, Conservative, and Libertarian lines for the November 5 General Election ballot, issued the following statement regarding Suffolk County's Red Light Camera "Traffic Safety" Program:

"Suffolk County's Red Light Cameras are a revenue-inspired abuse of the driving public. This is a money grab by the County to support government spending and I am not convinced that it was ever about actually reducing accidents and saving lives at dangerous intersections," stated Kabot.

"It appears that more accidents are occurring because of these red light cameras, particularly with drivers now slamming on the brakes on yellow lights out of fear of receiving more tickets by mail and resulting in more rear-end collisions. I know from my own personal experience when traveling in Brookhaven Township and other points in western Suffolk that I also navigate intersections with a heightened sense of fear that there is a red light camera ready to snap a photo and a costly ticket to arrive in the mail, thus braking on yellow lights in an overcautious way so to not turn right on stale yellow, that the ticket will say was a red light violation."

Traffic enforcement of moving violations and improper driving behavior is a duty of law enforcement. An offense based upon a recorded image produced by a photographic traffic signal enforcement system that shows only the vehicle and its license plate and does not even show the actual driver that allegedly committed the violation is simply wrong. Moreover, the administrative fees attached to the violation are highly questionable.

"It seems to me that this was always about revenue generation and never about traffic safety improvements. For the county, this program has generated money to help balance the budget and for the profit motivations of the red light camera vendors involved," opined Kabot.

"I am proud to join with the Republican members of the Suffolk County Legislature in opposing contract renewal and continuation of the red light camera program. I urge that County decision-makers not rely on fee generation that is abusive to the driving public and has been shown to increase accidents, rather than improve traffic safety. And, if the Democratic majority continues with this abusive program contrary to the vast general opposition from the driving public against this form of taxation, please do not attempt to extend any red light cameras into localities out east on the South Fork onto County roads. As a former elected official who has worked in local government for 14 years and has the community's pulse and best interests in mind at all times, I assure you that we do not want red light cameras in the Hamptons," stated Kabot.

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