

Moon and Facts Never Correct

To convince us that 'Speed cameras are mostly about money', it is evident that Mr. Moon cares little for children in school zones at 7:30 – 8:30AM where school buses, children, and irresponsible drivers mix. I drop my granddaughter off at 1st Grade about 3x/week. It is absolute, Mr. Moon: a majority of the drivers I observe speed excessively in this posted school zone.

If you can disprove your desire for school children to be in danger, then I will write you an apology. And here's the test: if all of the speed camera and other charges you alleged are corrected, such as yellow lights standardized at caution, speeds measured equally at all locations, etc., will this stop people who speed excessively in school zones?

Will this stop drivers from weaving in/out of traffic at 60-65-plusMPH in a posted 55? Will this stop dangerous drivers from tailgating? Will these speed cameras stop unsafe drivers from passing in a yellow-lined 35MPH zone because safe drivers obey the law? Will this stop people from going through stop lights because they'll run you over regardless of the laws and safety to others?

You see, Mr. Moon, I don't think you care one iota about safety for law abiding drivers in Montgomery. No, I think your selfish motivations are as evident to us all as those who drive 45+ in school zones during school drop-off and pick-up times.

No apology letter is forthcoming because you cannot disprove these facts.

Ken Scott

Montgomery

SEE ORIGINAL ARTICLE NEXT PAGE

Printed by ©The Montgomery Advertiser

Opinion – Josh Moon: Speed cameras are mostly about the money

[OVER MONTGOMERY](#) [Josh Moon](#), *Montgomery Advertiser* 1:03 p.m. CDT May 13, 2016

The presumption of innocence. It's the cornerstone of the American judicial system. From traffic citations to felonies, the accused is innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt and has a right to face the accuser and offer a defense.

We take these rights so seriously that if you get a ticket for so much as a bad turn signal, the officer who issued it has to stand before a judge and explain why you're not innocent. And if the cop doesn't show in court, the citation gets tossed. Because that's how the system works.

Unless, of course, the cop who issued the citation is a camera on a stick. If that's the case, you get a ticket in the mail and a timeframe in which to pay it. You can argue it if you follow the list of instructions for arranging a hearing, but by doing so, you are participating in a charade that turns the justice system on its head.

No longer is it law enforcement's responsibility to prove your guilt (or even that you were driving the car). It is your obligation to prove your innocence. This is the reason the general public has become irritated with [the use of speed and red light cameras](#). They remove the presumption of innocence, along with the nuance and subjectivity that should be present in law enforcement.

And all of that is why, in a state legislature that couldn't agree on what day it is, Republican and Democratic legislators from Montgomery joined together to unanimously vote out Montgomery's speed cameras.

But last week, Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange said the city will continue using the speed cameras, because it has a three-year contract with the company that supplies the cameras.

The city is apparently relying on a clause in the state constitution that prohibits the legislature from creating laws that impair "the obligations of a contract."

It's a nifty legal maneuver by the city, except for the small fact that the contract states that either party can break the contract at the end of each year without penalty.

But I'm sure the city and its partner in this, American Traffic Solutions – the company that supplies the cameras, issues the citations and takes a large percentage of the fines paid – will come up with another legal loophole. The two are spending so much time in court these days, there are few legal tricks lost to them.

At its current rate, ATS might as well open its offices in a federal courthouse.

The company is facing lawsuits – many seeking to become class action suits – in a number of states, including Alabama. In addition, ATS has settled class action suits in Missouri and New Jersey in the last two years and is currently in federal court in Florida for another class action.

And then there's the Alabama case, filed by a Montgomery resident, Charles Hunter, after he received a red-light citation for a violation at the intersection of the Eastern Bypass and Plantation Way.

In his lawsuit, which also seeks to become a class action suit, Hunter alleges that the yellow light at the intersection at which he was ticketed was shorter than 3 seconds. According to the Institute of Traffic Engineers, with a speed limit of 55 mph, the yellow light at that intersection should be more than 5 seconds long.

ATS has been accused of shortening yellow light times in other cities, with the cities' help and knowledge. It has also been accused of placing speed cameras in locations where picking up extra speed is common because of the road grade, of deceptively cropping photos and misrepresenting possible penalties should drivers fail to pay.

But maybe the most egregious set of allegations – and the ones that show what this is all really about – came in Chicago, where ATS was found to have knowingly issued thousands of school zone speeding tickets during times children weren't present at the schools. Chicago law states the reduced school zone speed is only applicable if children are present and in danger.

In response, ATS installed HD cameras, allowing it to pick out possible children more than a block away in some speed camera photos.

And kept issuing the bogus citations.

Because this isn't about safety or good driving. It's about money.

And city leaders are ignoring one of the basic rules of law to get it.

NEXT PAGE: EMAIL SENT TO EDITOR OF *THE MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER*

Ken Scott, EdD

From: Ken Scott, EdD <skinner777@knology.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 4:52 AM
To: letters@montgomeryadvertiser.com
Cc: skinner777@knology.net
Subject: Josh Moon Letter and Response Attached...
Attachments: Moon and Facts Never Correct Read Both Sides Before You Decide.docx

Editor,

Attached is a response to Mr. Moon's article on speed cameras. While he cites class action cases as to why these technologies are so horrible, he never once considers the safety issues that are evident on our roads every single day in the City of Montgomery. I am daily tailgated for doing 35 in a 35 zone. I am daily and dangerously tailgated for slowing to 15 in a zone where buses, children, and access to the school are placed in danger by drivers who could care less about the safety of these children—not to mention the safety of anyone in their precious way. But Josh Moon, and evidently complicit via *The Advertiser*—let's set all that aside. If the technologies functioned perfectly to identify those who willingly violate the laws of the road, it would do nothing to dissuade people from driving like idiots. So, safety aside, let's blame someone or something else for the truth of what is really going on here: "don't trample on my rights to drive as I damn well please." In this same school zone, there is a curve that drivers come around at speeds of 40+ miles per hour—easily. There is a crosswalk for children that live in the area. If you are driving around this curve and you are speeding at 25-45MPH, you might be able to stop in time at 25 or so; but at the speeds of most of these drivers, it is roulette before a parent and/or child are injured or killed. And, because of articles like the one Moon has written, he and *The Advertiser* will be as holistically responsible for that injury or death as the driver—because both of you would rather be politically correct than find solutions to stop these irresponsible drivers from terrorizing school zones when these children are present to get to/leave from their respective schools. If you think I am full-of-it, get out from your desk and go to a school zone during drop off and pick up times. If you find what I am saying is in any way false, let me know and I will write that apology letter. But, if you find that what I say is true, then you should print an article in the Editorial page that clarifies your (and Moon's) first responsibility: safety for all drivers and especially for our children. I challenge you to do this, because it is your responsibility as a public domain leader. If you do not do this—to prove for yourselves what is truth in this matter for our kids safety—you will not be able to do as Pilate and wash your hands of what you might have prevented. You cannot say that you have no part in this; your own printed words are all the evidence we the people need (at least those of us who believe in the law and obey it for the good and safety of all). If the technology needs 'fixin', then get it fixed—but STOP blaming other things for the lack of responsibility that so many drivers validate every single day on our roads.

K. Scott
Montgomery

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵ ⏶ ⏷ ⏸ ⏹ ⏺

K. Edward Scott, EdD (Ken)

(H) 334.279.6480

(C) 334.312.4751

(W) 334.420.4392

In God We Trust; all others bring data.

(W. Edwards Deming)

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵ ⏶ ⏷ ⏸ ⏹ ⏺

HE > i

⏪ ⏩ ⏴ ⏵ ⏶ ⏷ ⏸ ⏹ ⏺

Message in the email:

Editor,

Attached is a response to Mr. Moon's article on speed cameras. While he cites class action cases as to why these technologies are so horrible, he never once considers the safety issues that are evident on our roads every single day in the City of Montgomery. I am daily tailgated for doing 35 in a 35 zone. I am daily and dangerously tailgated for slowing to 15 in a zone where buses, children, and access to the school are placed in danger by drivers who could care less about the safety of these children—not to mention the safety of anyone in their precious way. But Josh Moon, and evidently complicit via *The Advertiser*—let's set all that aside. If the technologies functioned perfectly to identify those who willingly violate the laws of the road, it would do nothing to dissuade people from driving like idiots. So, safety aside, let's blame someone or something else for the truth of what is really going on here: "don't trample on my rights to drive as I damn well please." In this same school zone, there is a curve that drivers come around at speeds of 40+ miles per hour—easily. There is a crosswalk for children that live in the area. If you are driving around this curve and you are speeding at 25-45MPH, you might be able to stop in time at 25 or so; but at the speeds of most of these drivers, it is roulette before a parent and/or child are injured or killed. And, because of articles like the one Moon has written, he and *The Advertiser* will be as holistically responsible for that injury or death as the driver—because both of you would rather be politically correct than find solutions to stop these irresponsible drivers from terrorizing school zones when these children are present to get to/leave from their respective schools. If you think I am full-of-it, get out from your desk and go to a school zone during drop off and pick up times. If you find what I am saying is in any way false, let me know and I will write that apology letter. But, if you find that what I say is true, then you should print an article in the Editorial page that clarifies your (and Moon's) first responsibility: safety for all drivers and especially for our children. I challenge you to do this, because it is your responsibility as a public domain leader. If you do not do this—to prove for yourselves what is truth in this matter for our kids' safety—you will not be able to do as Pilate and wash your hands of what you might have prevented. You cannot say that you have no part in this; your own printed words are all the evidence we the people need (at least those of us who believe in the law and obey it for the good and safety of all). If the technology needs 'fixin', then get it fixed—but STOP blaming other things for the lack of responsibility that so many drivers validate every single day on our roads.

K. Scott

Montgomery