Zoomed in on the Redding red light cameras

by Colton Chavez
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REDDING, Calif. — The unmistakable bright flash. If you have seen it, then you probably received a ticket in the mail for a red-light violation.

Redding Police Department (RPD) works hand in hand with Redflex Automated Enforcement Systems, a company that provides the cameras and initial surveillance.

Redflex takes the first look at each possible violation and sends all cases that fit RPD's criteria back to them for the final call.

The technology is not perfect. RPD says if a car approaches an intersection and slams on the breaks, the system has triggered. The technology reads the speed the vehicle is traveling and calculates the distance from the red light and anticipates a red light violation.

When all said and done, running a red light can cost drivers $459.

A breakdown of the ticket looks like this:

- City- $147.59
- State- $240.95
- County- $70.46
- Total-$459.00

Tom Landreth, Red Light Specialist says the goal is not to make money from red-light violations.

"I was actually one of these negative guys, this is dumb. However, after the first year of implementation, the traffic-related accidents in regards to red lights went down dramatically. Its statistics you can't argue with," said Landreth.
Cameras were first used in 2007, since then collisions in monitored areas went from 96 in 2007 to 25 in 2017.

The technology shows officers the vehicle's speed, how long the light was red before the violation and four still images. The still images help officers identify the driver and car.

Redding Police Department says a simple solution is for drivers to slow down. They say motorists continue to see the light turn yellow and face it as a challenge to go faster rather than to apply the brakes.