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Violation Warning Period for Lancaster REDFLEX Student Guardian® Safety Initiative Ending Nov. 20

City of Lancaster reminds drivers to be cautious and patient around school buses; Citations to be issued for illegally passing school buses

Lancaster, OH – (November 20, 2013) - The violation warning period for the Lancaster REDFLEX Student Guardian® safety initiative ends Wednesday, November 20. Moving forward, law enforcement will issue Notices of Liability to drivers who are found to illegally pass school buses, endangering the lives of children.

Student Guardian is an automated safety camera system designed to monitor school bus passing violations and deter drivers from illegally passing school buses. Installed on the driver's side of the school bus, it monitors traffic while the bus' stop arm and amber lights are displayed, leaving the bus driver free to focus on students. The camera is triggered to capture data, including high-resolution images and video, as a vehicle passes the bus while children are loading and unloading.

"Lancaster is proud to be the first Ohio city to launch such a program to improve student safety in our community. Before Student Guardian, widespread enforcement of these types of violations was extremely difficult and often impractical," said Lancaster Law Director Randall Ullom. "We hope this initiative will make drivers think twice as they approach a school bus where children are present."

Evidence of incidents was first reviewed by Redflex Traffic Systems®, Inc., the vendor partnering with the city on this initiative. Redflex reviewed each incident against specific legal requirements in Lancaster. Incidents deemed to be violations were encrypted and electronically held in a queue for the Lancaster Police Department to determine whether a warning would be issued. Incidents captured during the warning period are still being reviewed.

"We are proud to help Lancaster launch the first initiative of this type in Ohio. Student Guardian is an exciting technology that helps to improve student safety by modifying drivers' risky behavior around

school buses,” Thomas O’Connor, president of Redflex’s student safety division, Redflex Student Guardian.

Lancaster announced the launch of the Student Guardian program at a town hall meeting on October 15. The fine for passing a school bus in Lancaster is \$250. Vehicle owners will receive a Notice of Liability in the mail. They will be presented with the opportunity to pay the fine, contest it via a civil hearing, or nominate the driver. If the Notice of Liability is not paid within 60 days, the debt will go to collections.

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