

# TRAFFIC SAFETY USING LOCAL POLICE SPEED TIMING TECHNOLOGIES

PA SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE



MAYOR JOHN DORIN  
MONTOURSVILLE  
PAST PRESIDENT  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF BOROUGHES

**August 17, 2010**

***PSAB***  
***Past President John Dorin***

---

Good Afternoon, my name is John Dorin and I serve as the Legislative Action Committee Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. I speak here today on behalf of our borough communities seeking another tool for the safety of their residents and roadways. In my elected role as the Mayor of Montoursville in Lycoming County I constantly strive to make my borough a safe haven for the citizens of my municipality. I believe one way our community demonstrated its concern for traffic safety was by installing one of Pennsylvania's first illuminated crosswalks several years ago. These in- roadway lighting systems have since been installed throughout the Commonwealth and express the desire of our citizenry to implement technologies that insure TRAFFIC SAFETY!

On the issue of effective Local Police Radar, We realize that one of the daily threats facing our pedestrian citizens is their interaction with the motoring public. Along with the more than 10,000-elected borough officials comprising PSAB, I have long supported the use of radar by local full-time full-service police departments. This position has been elaborated by PSAB in 1997 and was reaffirmed by the association membership in 2000 as Resolution 2000-7. This resolution captures the spirit of our Municipal Policy Statement that cites the "*primary responsibility for law enforcement should rest at the local level. To carry out this responsibility effectively, municipalities must constantly seek to improve their law enforcement capability*" Local Police Radar is one of those needed improvements.

PSAB's membership recognizes Radar and other speed detection technologies such as LIDAR as a vital resource in much needed TRAFFIC CONTROL AND TRAFFIC CALMING situations. It remains a tool to maintaining a safe, pleasant and unthreatening environment for

motorists as well as pedestrians taking advantage of the walkable communities & lifestyle that boroughs have historically offered. As local elected officials we are asked often times to make difficult decisions, but in this case we look forward to going back to our boroughs and telling our residents that we are willing to take sometimes unpopular measures to insure their safety, not only on the roadways but also in their neighborhoods and downtown areas.

That's because this Radar Bill that is being developed provides all the safeguards we local officials have wanted and desperately needed. **THIS IS ALL ABOUT COMMUNITY SAFETY & TRAFFIC CONTROL.** Boroughs have throughout their history been the center for commerce & culture. Our downtown centers have been the hubs of economic and social life. We want to be certain that our law enforcement and traffic units can maintain this atmosphere in these communities. And under the guidelines incorporated in this comprehensive radar bill, it is our borough, Montoursville that will make that decision at the local level when the bill is passed into law.

Before I close I would like to point out that the recent developments of the PA Senate lowering the Blood Alcohol Content level to .08 in order to control DUI's demonstrates that now is the time to enact measures to enhance **TRAFFIC SAFETY & CONTROL AND YES, SAVE LIVES!!!** So would you please join with me and the nearly one thousand borough communities who support this valuable enabling legislation, by asking your legislator to pass the Local Police Radar Bill.

## Local Police Radar “Talking Points”

---

- ☛ The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs representing over 955+ boroughs throughout the Commonwealth has historically demonstrated through its Resolutions its desire to give municipal police officers the capacity to use laser, radar and other speed detection devices (PSAB Resolution 1997-4 & 2005-15). Provided these local police departments are properly trained and such devices are properly calibrated.
- ☛ PSAB’s Municipal Policy Statement, developed by its membership, cites that, as “primary responsibility for law enforcement should rest at the local level. To carry out this responsibility effectively, municipalities must constantly seek to improve their law enforcement capability”. PSAB’s members feel the use of Local Police Radar provides a much needed traffic control resource to their communities.
- ☛ PSAB recognizes that while Local Police Radar is a controversial subject, it must be dealt with through bi-partisan efforts in both the PA House and Senate.
- ☛ As the Commonwealth has 1,100 plus municipal police departments, over 20% of these departments use Part-time officers. To deny this portion of the law enforcement community techniques to insure traffic safety would be unwise.
- ☛ Previous bills in the PA legislature have sought to limit the use of local police radar to communities with over 40,000 residents. PSAB recognizes that this population requirement restricts over 95% of Pennsylvania’s municipalities from implementing local police radar programs.
- ☛ In today’s local police environment abuses of local ‘speed traps’ could be easily addressed through innovative approaches of accountability. Monitoring of a municipal departments time spent on traffic patrol may be a deterrence mechanism.