

“ PPP ”

People for Proper Policing in North Wales

The Cancers spread, we should be proud! Just two from 100s

Soon-to-be the Most Hated British Import to Ohio — Traffic Cameras

Cleveland Mayor Jane Campbell may have stumbled upon her budget crisis solution: cameras that give traffic tickets automatically. Even [the PD](#) likes it:

Some people will never like this type of enforcement; no promises of a review by police officers before tickets are issued or of judicial appeals will satisfy their sense that it is unfair to be nabbed by a camera. But they ought to think about what they really are protecting. If cameras get more of us to slow and drive more sanely, this experiment will be a success

...despite skepticism at the money-raising capabilities...

The mayor and her team helped fuel some of the early criticism by rolling out their red-light idea at the same time as their 2005 budget proposal and by suggesting that the electronic enforcers would generate \$6.5 million for the general fund this year. That figure always seemed a bit fishy — to collect it, the city would have had to issue 130,000 red-light tickets this year, almost as many citations as it usually writes for every kind of traffic misdeed. Even worse, it reinforced suspicions that the proposal was about money, not safety...

The PD should have done its homework on this. Speed cameras in Britain are [cash cows](#):

A temporary speed trap at roadworks led to motorists being fined £750,000 in just two months.

That's almost \$1.5 million. From one camera. In two months.

As a result, speed cameras are hated in Britain. Absolutely despised. They are targets for vandalism. People light them on fire, attack them with [power saws](#), fire [shotguns](#) at them. There's even [a campaign](#) to get rid of them.

The temptation for UK police authorities to use them only for revenue generation has been irresistible. They are [not posted](#) on the most dangerous roads. They've resulted in a [sevenfold increase](#) of fines from 2001 to 2003 in England and Wales. Their main effect, aside from generating incredible revenue, has been to keep police officers in their offices, rather than on the beat, because cameras are making their quotas for them. Other minor, quality-of-life crime has gone up because police presence has gone down.

This may cost Jane Campbell her re-election campaign.

From another US website.....I used to believe that policemen were hard-working devoted professionals with the occasional rotten apple tossed in. But over the last ten years I've seen a marked turn for the worse. Most of the old, professional ones have either gone into retirement or have been promoted and transferred to administrative duties, removed from the public. I don't like the new breed one bit: the old policemen were able to solve many situations without turning to force, just with their gentle but stern demeanour. The new ones, on the other hand, resolve to force so much often and they seem to feel safe only when they are either heavily armed or in superior numbers. I don't know if it's either a generational change (for the worse), new recruitment standards or the new training and procedures focus much more on the "aggressive" side, but whenever I need a policeman, I always look out for the older ones or state troopers, who seems to still be a better breed. A policeman's duty is not only to hand out

tickets or shooting bad guys: he/she's a respected member of the community, but this respect comes when he/she's also ready to help out people in all those small things, like telling you how to get "there", explaining you the changes to the road rules or helping old ladies cross the road. The administrators fail to see this: in many European countries policemen are given a "quota" of fines to reach by the end of the month. If they fail this, they are punished with more overtime work, less vacation permits, etc. I understand that some US municipalities are also going this direction. Officers focus on "safe areas", like parking or speeding, where they can fill their quota quickly and without much trouble. This leads into running a police department like a private, money making enterprise, not a public and respected institution. Coupled with the new generation of "aggressive" policemen, it's easy to see why citizens are losing their faith in the police.