

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 2869 9205

Date : 26 May 2005

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 15 June 2005

**Proposed resolution under
the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance**

I forward for Members' consideration a proposed resolution which the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works will move at the Council meeting of 15 June 2005 under the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance. The President has directed that "it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in" on the Agenda of the Council.

2. The speech, in both English and Chinese versions, which the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works will deliver when moving the proposed resolution, is also attached.

(Ray CHAN)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

ROAD TRAFFIC (DRIVING-OFFENCE POINTS) ORDINANCE

RESOLUTION

(Under section 4(3) of the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points)
Ordinance (Cap. 375))

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Schedule to the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance (Cap. 375) be amended, in item 12, in column 4, by repealing “3” and substituting “5”; and
- (b) that this Resolution shall come into operation on 1 January 2006.

**Speech to be made by the
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
when moving the motion under section 4(3) of the
Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance**

Madam President,

I move that the resolution under section 4(3) of the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance be passed.

2. This motion seeks to increase the driving-offence points for failing to comply with traffic signals from 3 to 5 to create a stronger deterrent effect upon potential offenders.

3. Failure to comply with traffic signals has led to many serious traffic accidents. There is almost one traffic accident involving vehicles jumping red light per day. The number of casualties arisen from this offence increased by 13% from 598 in 2003 to 675 in 2004, and the number of prosecutions increased by 74% from 22 590 in 2003 to 39 376 in 2004. These rising trends demonstrate the severity of the situation and point to the need to take prompt actions.

4. Indeed, we are putting in place a range of measures to combat this improper driving behaviour. We plan to procure 68 additional red light cameras and install housings at 20 additional locations. With this expansion programme, we will have 96 cameras at 131 housings, representing some three-fold increase in the camera-to-housing ratio from 25% to 73%. Subject to funding approval, we expect the new cameras can be put in place by phases starting from 2006. We will also step up the publicity on red light jumping and enhance training for drivers. On the other hand, to improve traffic facilities, we will install more overhead traffic signals at wide junctions to improve the visibility of traffic signals to motorists.

5. On top of the above, we consider it necessary to impose stiffer penalty on failure to comply with traffic signals. There is wide public support for this move. According to the opinion poll conducted earlier this year, around 80% of the respondents considered that the Government should increase the driving-offence points for red light jumping.

6. There are comments from some quarters that an increase in the driving-offence points would affect the livelihood of professional drivers. We consider that such impact should be minimal, given that the driving-offence points would not be incurred if the drivers do not commit the offence, and the majority of drivers, including professional drivers, are law-abiding citizens.

7. The Transport Advisory Committee and Road Safety Council fully supported the proposal, and the Panel on Transport of this Council has also thoroughly discussed the proposal. Subject to Members' approval, the resolution will take effect on 1 January 2006.

8. Road safety is important to each and every citizen. Failure to comply with traffic signals affects the safety of all road users, in particular, the vulnerable pedestrians. For the sake of providing a safer road environment for all, Madam President, I beg to move.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
15 June 2005