



**New York City
Department of Transportation**

Deputy Commissioner
34-02 Queens Boulevard
L.I.C., New York 11101
Tel: 718/786-2886 Fax: 718/786-6640

Iris Weinshall, Commissioner

February 2, 2001

This is in reply to your December 23, 2000 letter to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani regarding the timing of the traffic signals in New York City.

In general we use 3 second amber and 2 second All-red clearance intervals. Longer intervals reduce the efficiency and capacity of an intersection and there is a tendency for motorists to abuse this interval if they learn from experience that it is longer than normal. We would not compromise safety by reducing these clearance intervals at locations where we have red light cameras. In addition the camera does not become operational until three tenths of a second after the red signal is displayed.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,


Michael Primeggia

MP/AHB/ab
CCU Log #28302
Casework #307215
CA01-0097B
aborock15, p. 27

cc: Mayor's Correspondence Office