

STATE OF TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202

May 24, 2005

Opinion No. 05-087

Cameras at Intersections

QUESTION

Whether use of cameras at intersections or in other locations in the City of Knoxville to monitor traffic violations would be allowable.

OPINION

Yes. The City of Knoxville can use its inherent “police power” to enact ordinances to allow the use of video technology to enforce the city’s traffic laws.

ANALYSIS

In Tenn. Op. Att’y Gen. No. 01-004, this Office concluded that the City of Germantown could, pursuant to its inherent “police power,” enact ordinances to allow the use of video technology to enforce traffic laws. As was the case at the time that opinion issued, no state statute conflicts with a city’s use of video technology to enforce traffic ordinances. Nor are we aware of any valid constitutional objection to this practice. Accordingly, this Office concludes that the City of Knoxville and/or other cities with authority to enact ordinances as necessary to provide for the public health and general welfare may enact ordinances authorizing the use of video technology to enforce their traffic laws.

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