



# State lawmaker says red light cameras were always all about the money

By [Ted Hart \(http://nbc4i.com/author/ted-hart/\)](http://nbc4i.com/author/ted-hart/) and [Associated Press \(http://nbc4i.com/author/associated-press/\)](http://nbc4i.com/author/associated-press/)

Published: June 23, 2015, 2:08 pm | Updated: June 24, 2015, 4:21 am

The state senator who led the charge to eliminate the use of red light cameras in Ohio says a federal bribery investigation adds a “whole new dimension to the claim it’s all about the money.” Sen. Bill Seitz, a Cincinnati Republican, speaking to reporters at the Statehouse Tuesday, also called on cities suing the state on the issue of red light cameras to drop their lawsuits and refund fines to drivers.

Federal authorities announced Friday that a former chief executive for a Phoenix-based traffic camera company pleaded guilty to bribery conspiracy in a scheme seeking to get or keep contracts in Columbus and Cincinnati.

At a press conference Monday, Andrew Ginther, the Democratic nominee in the mayoral race in Columbus and president of Columbus City Council said he is helping with the traffic camera bribery investigation, but isn’t linked to any wrongdoing. Ginther sent an email message to supporters saying he isn’t a focus, target, subject or person of interest. He blames suggestions to the contrary on an effort to smear him and his

campaign.

Seitz sponsored legislation to require a police officer be present at every intersection where a red light camera is operating. The new law became effective in March and has prompted several lawsuits by cities. But Seitz says the federal bribery case should send a message to those cities. "I call on the cities to immediately drop their lawsuits," Seitz said. "These lawsuits are perpetuating a scam. It's time for them to fess up, pay up, shut up and go away."

Seitz has been a vocal critic of red light cameras arguing that they are less about public safety and more about money. "It appears that it's about shady money, it's about dirty money, it's about bribery money, it's about public officials taking money in return for doing favors for red light camera companies so that their own taxpayers and citizens can be fleeced," Seitz said.

Columbus Mayor Mike Coleman released the following statement in regards to the investigation:

"The Department of Public Safety had the responsibility to evaluate and recommend the best option for the city. I am confident that the Department complied with the appropriate laws, rules, regulations, and city policies. I have asked the Department of Public Safety to work with the City Attorney to examine the procurement, contract, and legislative process associated with the photo red light program.

I had no involvement in the decision to award the contract to Redflex.

I, along with others, have received a request to provide documents to federal investigators and I am responding fully and completely. I encourage those who receive a request for information to cooperate as I am. While I am not the focus, I do consider these allegations to be serious. As such, I will do whatever is necessary to assist the authorities.

It is important that the federal investigators are provided with the appropriate information so that all of the facts come out, so that justice can be served."

+ Follow

**Follow**  
"NBC 4"

[+](#) Follow

**Follow**  
“NBC 4”

3 Comments

NBC4i.com

1 Login ▾

♥ Recommend

↗ Share

Sort by Best ▾



Join the discussion...



**DiegoHenry** • 20 hours ago

Seitz sure has a way with words! Great quotes. As for Ginther, he's now damaged goods and will remain so even if he somehow proves that he wasn't bribed. The bribery will always be a footnote under his name. He needs to move his career to the private sector.

1 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Protect America** ↗ DiegoHenry • 18 hours ago

Yes. This was purely another "tax" by Coleman and his tax and spend City Council. They found a way to make money without having to do much to get it. And they got their political pockets lined in the process.

Anyone with an IQ over 80 can see that Ginther is part of this. Redflex writes a check to the Ohio Democratic Party and then they give it to their "choice candidates"

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



**Enabled** ↗ Protect America • 2 hours ago

Luckily you can provide the proof for everyone that Coleman was behind this. Yawn.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›

ALSO ON NBC4I.COM

WHAT'S THIS?

### Officer sings to little girl after crash kills her father

2 comments • a day ago

Avatar **Ben Ghazi** — Yet, the police are demonized more than supported in some communities.

### Ohio University students protest natural gas pipeline

2 comments • a day ago

Avatar **chris milburn** — And they are at a very liberal university. Just think of one of OU's alum....Matt Lauer.

### Bexley City Council pens anti- LGBT discrimination ordinance

12 comments • 18 hours ago

Avatar **Enabled** — I imagine this is the same nonsense people said regarding discrimination against black people.

### U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service declares eastern cougar extinct

24 comments • 2 days ago

Avatar **Westland** — Please don't make this an issue of race, asshat.

✉ Subscribe

ⓓ Add Disqus to your site

🔒 Privacy

+ Follow

Follow

“NBC4i”

”

**NBC4i.com**

All content © Copyright 2000 - 2015 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General Company.

Powered by WordPress.com VIP (<https://vip.wordpress.com/>)

☺

[+](#) Follow

**Follow**  
“NBC 4i”