



Alderman Diane at City Hall School with the Grade 6 class from Father Doucet School

## **February 2008 Newsletter**

### **Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart**

#### **Red Light Cameras**

Last fall, I was appointed for a two year term by City Council to the Calgary Police Commission. I previously served on the Commission for three years in 1993 as a civilian. I will also be serving on the Citizen Complaint & Police Oversight Committee. For many years, I have focused my efforts on a safe community, and will be implementing the Community Safety Advisory Council for Ward 13 in 2008. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping out on CSAC.

Lately, I have been getting a number of inquiries about Red Light Cameras. The intent of the Red Light Camera Program is to improve traffic safety by changing driver behaviours and reducing injuries and deaths caused by drivers running red lights. The primary focus of the program is to reduce the number of right angle collisions which often occur when a driver runs a red light. This type of collision can easily result in serious injuries and even deaths. In 2002, 489 drivers were charged with running a red light causing a collision.

In the 9 years I served on the Fatality Review Board both as a member and as Chair, it was difficult reviewing files that resulted from collisions in intersections that could have been avoided.

Since the implementation of the Red Light Camera Program in March of 2001, right-angle collisions have been reduced by 21% at the first 15 red light camera equipped intersections. This success has not gone unnoticed and there are now 44 camera ready intersections around town, with 36 Red Light Cameras employed on a rotational basis.

The Calgary Police Service, in conjunction with the City of Calgary, Roads chose the intersections based on a detailed analysis of the intersections, including:

- Number of collisions
- Types of collisions
- Injury severity of collisions
- Traffic volumes
- Violation rate at the intersection
- Consideration of future roadway plans
- Construction schedule for the intersection
- Posted speed of roadway
- Strategic geographic coverage
- Documented Community concerns

Building on the success of the Red Light Camera Program, the Provincial Legislature recently passed a bill that will modify existing Red Light Cameras to act as Green Light speed traps as well.

This new program targets drivers who race through intersections endangering themselves and everyone on the road. Anytime drivers are traveling at excessive speeds, a dangerous situation is created. The Calgary

Police Service will begin using this system in the new year, and it is my hope that it help make our roads a safer place.

### **Burnt out street lights**

A number of constituents have voiced their concerns over the number of burnt out street lights around town. Unfortunately there is no electronic grid that alerts Enmax of streetlight malfunctions or failures. There are systems that exist, though the cost of retrofitting the 85,000 luminaires across Calgary has been prohibitive.

Enmax usually fixes burnt of lights based on the input from the public so it is important for you to call in. Calgary Roads has an agreement with Enmax to maintain streetlights in Calgary, stipulating that they must respond in 48 hours to a call, however, there are instances when the responding crews are unable to fix the problem right away.

**As always, you can contact my office regarding this or any other civic matter at 268-1624, by email at [dcolley@calgary.ca](mailto:dcolley@calgary.ca), or through my website, [www.aldermandiane.ca](http://www.aldermandiane.ca). Alternatively, you can contact '311.'**