



Manassas City  
Police Department

## MANASSAS CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

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### **MCPD to Use Stop-Arm Camera System to Issue Fines**

Jan. 6, 2017... Beginning today, Manassas City Police Department will begin issuing official citations to drivers who pass stopped school buses using the Manassas City Public Schools' new stop-arm camera system. Drivers who illegally pass and are detected by camera could face a civil penalty of \$250.

Manassas City Public Schools (MCPS), in partnership with Force Multiplier Solutions, Inc., installed the new camera system to all City school buses in Sept. 2016. During the program's initial phase, Police issued warning citations to drivers found to be in violation. Now that the testing phase is over, drivers caught on camera passing stopped school bus are subject to monetary fines.

The program, designed to increase the safety of all students using the bus, is funded entirely by stop-arm citation payments and at no cost to the school division. All MCPS buses are equipped with cameras inside and out, GPS capabilities, a panic button for emergencies, and real-time video and voice communications. When a bus's stop-arm is deployed, sensors automatically detect a vehicle illegally passing in either direction and capture a video of the violation that includes the vehicle's license plate. Pending a review by Police, a citation is then issued to the driver.

Under Va. Code [§46.2-844](#) and [§46.2-859](#), drivers approaching a school bus may not pass if the bus's stop-arm is extended or its red lights are flashing. Even if the red lights have only begun flashing and the stop-arm is not yet extended, drivers are still required to stop until all children have finished loading and unloading, the school bus is back in motion, and it is safe to proceed. An exception to the rule is that if a driver's vehicle is separated from a school bus by a solid barrier, the driver may pass the bus.

**Related Link:** [MCPS News Release: "All MCPS Buses Equipped with Stop-Arm Camera System" \(Sept. 7, 2016\)](#)

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