

Cop: 'It's like shooting fish in a barrel'

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"This is a dangerous practice that can, and has, caused serious injury to pedestrians who may not be easily seen as they cross the road in front of vehicles," police said in a press release last week.

The driver Jolly pulls over admits he didn't stop and he has no other tickets on record, so Jolly lets him off with a warning and some advice.

"I tell them when I pull them over to tell their friends and family, their neighbours...I'm trying to get the word out and the more people they talk to the better," he said. "I don't like to give these tickets out. People just can't afford it."

Still, he believes lives are at stake and he's seen and heard only too often what happens when people are more concerned about getting somewhere quickly than with the lives of pedestrians or cyclists near the intersection.

He says not stopping on red lights is another form of distracted driving with people in a hurry to get to work or get the kids off to camp or to appointments.

In fact, drivers are so distracted they don't even see Jolly's vehicle when its rear flashing lights are turned on. They continue to slow down on the red light to make their right-hand turn, rather than stop.

In less than 20 minutes at the busy intersection, Jolly watches at least 30 cars violating

the law — he can't keep up.

"It's like shooting fish in a barrel," he chuckled, adding cell-phone use is the same.

"It's everywhere, all the time, all ages," he said.

Jolly moves locations to a gas station at the corner of Derry Rd. and Regional Road 25 so he can point out the number of people using a hand-held device while driving — a ticket that costs \$280. Within seconds, at least 10 people are spotted using a smart phone, either talking or looking at the screen.

He says he's heard every excuse under the sun when it comes to distracted driving, but no excuse is acceptable.

Next, Jolly is off to Dublin Road and 5 Sideroad where he likes to maintain a presence for the large numbers of truckers pulling out of the quarry. He may not issue many tickets, but he knows the drivers spot his vehicle and come to a complete stop at the red light.

He's done his job.

"They know I'm here, they're stopping and that's what I want," he said, adding even if they don't do it all the time, maybe his presence will get them to the point of thinking about it. "That's a good thing."

Several more drivers are ticketed as the morning proceeds and Jolly says the afternoon will see even more.

Statistics from the month will be released at the end of August.



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