



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Luis Velez  
Chief of Police

## CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

Colorado Springs Police-Sand Creek Division  
4125 Center Park Dr.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
October 1, 2003

Daniel Francis  
3036 Garland Terrace  
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

Dear Daniel Francis:  
Subject: Visual Obstruction of Fair Boxes

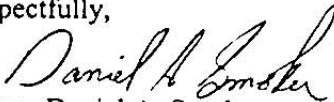
I am writing you with regard to a safety issue that may apply to one or more of the public transit buses used in Colorado Springs.

On August 22, 2003 @ 4:46pm, I investigated a fatality collision between a Transit bus and pedestrian Leonard Miller. Part of the investigation concentrated on driver's blind spots. I was *amazed* to discover the large blind spot created by the fair box. I sat in the driver's seat and was alarmed when I could not see *two* of my partners standing about 3 feet forward and to the right of the bus. The area covered by the blind spot becomes greater the further away an object becomes.

I have investigated several fatal incidents where blind spots have been prime factors. The blind spot identified was the largest and potentially most unsafe factor in its operation.

In my opinion, the blind spot created by the fair box presents an unnecessary and unjustifiable risk for the safe operation of the bus. I wrote this letter with the hope that in the future, improvements can be made to minimize the risks to other motorists and pedestrians.

Respectfully,

  
Officer Daniel A. Smoker  
Major Accident Investigator  
Colorado Springs Police Department

