



City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL **DATE: JULY 8, 2014**
FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**
SUBJECT: PHOTO RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ELIMINATION

ISSUES:

The issues for City Council consideration are to: 1) eliminate the Photo Red Light Enforcement Program; 2) terminate the Agreement between the City and Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc.; and, 3) approve the program termination plan outlined in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the City Council:

1. Eliminate the Photo Red Light Enforcement Program and terminate the Agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc.;
2. Authorize the City Manager or his designee to take all actions necessary to terminate the Agreement; and
3. Approve the program termination plan outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND:

On June 17, 2014 the City Council received an update on the Photo Red Light Enforcement Program (Program) and directed staff to return with a termination plan for the elimination of the Program.

The Program currently employs ten part-time Photo Red Light Enforcement Operators from the Police Department and a Senior Administrative Analyst from the Public Works Department to review and process photo red light violations and complete the daily functions necessary for the operation of the Program. The Police Department is evaluating the need to retain these Operators. If current Police Department staff are retained by the Police Department, they will be absorbed in the adopted budget; the Senior Administrative Analyst will be assigned to other duties in the Public Works Department.

In order to terminate the program the City must provide the photo red light enforcement vendor (Redflex) with a 60-day notice identifying the termination date of the Program. Under the terms of the Agreement, the City may terminate with no termination payment or penalty. However, all monthly camera rental fees will remain in effect until the actual date of termination.

To discontinue the Program, the Public Works Department recommends that the City continue operation of the cameras through the 60-day notification period, issue all violations captured up to the date of camera deactivation and process all citations to their final conclusion.

The City pays a monthly charge of \$3,851 per camera per month for the 14 currently active cameras located throughout the City; the cost for all the cameras totals approximately \$53,914 per month. In addition to the camera costs, the City also funds program management and operations at approximately \$38,643 per month. The total cost of the Program to the City is around \$92,557 per month. Fines collected by the City from Program citations are estimated around \$137,500 per month. Collection time for an average citation is approximately four-months, representing between \$350,000 and \$400,000 in revenue. Over the past two-years the revenue has covered the Program's costs and contributed approximately \$450,000 in additional funding per year to the General Fund.

The above-described plan will reduce the financial impact of the monthly rental cost and provide time for a smooth transition of staff. Alternatively, the City Council may direct staff to:

1. Deactivate the cameras as soon as possible, issue all violations captured up to the date of camera deactivation and process all citations to their final conclusion; or
2. Deactivate the cameras as soon as possible and waive all outstanding citations.

The Chief of Police concurs with this report.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The recommended termination plan will result in an estimated \$445,000 net loss to the General Fund based on the adopted fiscal year (FY) 2014/15 budget.

If the City Council elects to terminate the program as soon as possible and process all citations captured up to the date the cameras are deactivated, the General Fund will see an estimated \$600,000 net loss to the General Fund based on the adopted FY 2014/15 budget. If the City Council elects to terminate the program as soon as possible and waive all outstanding citations, the General Fund will see an estimated \$1.1 million net loss to the General Fund based on the adopted FY 2014/15 budget.

Prepared by: Thomas J. Boyd, P.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer
Certified as to availability of funds: Brent A. Mason, Finance Director/Treasurer
Approved by: Deanna Lorson, Assistant City Manager
for Scott C. Barber, City Manager
Approved as to form: Gregory P. Priamos, City Attorney

Attachments: Initial Photo Enforcement Camera Locations and Activation Dates