

CITY OF



San Rafael

MATTHEW C. ODETTO
Chief of Police

POLICE DEPARTMENT

State of California, Department of Transportation
Caltrans District 4
Office of Permits
Mail Station: 5
111 Grand Avenue
PO Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

June 16, 2010

Re: Second Street and Hetherton Street – Encroachment Permit – Justification

Dear Mr. Brojeni;

This letter is in response to the latest review that was completed by your office on June 15th, 2010.

On page 2 of our submitted study, we have that there are “five” Caltrans intersections in our table. The following are the five intersections:

1. Del Presedio & Manuel T. Freitas
2. Hetherton & Second
3. Hetherton & Mission
4. Irwin & Mission
5. ~~Francisco Blvd. East & Bellam Blvd.~~

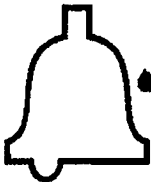
I did confirm with our Assistant City Traffic Engineer that, Francisco Blvd. East & Bellam Blvd. is an intersection that we would have to obtain an encroachment permit from Caltrans to conduct any work in the area.

In the same table listed on page 2 of our report, there is a significant typo in the number of red light collisions at the intersection of Grand Avenue at Third Street. That collision number should read 8 total.

In referring to the video surveillance that was conducted by Redflex Traffic Systems, the time in which the survey was held was for a total of 12 hours.

We currently have two camera systems installed at the intersection of Irwin Street at Third Street. Three of our top ranking intersections currently have or will be starting construction in the near future, so installing a system at those locations is not an option. We know that due to the heavy vehicular traffic in the area of Hetherton at Second

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Streets, along with the collision and citation data, that installing a camera system would have a significant impact and also improve pedestrian/bicycle safety due to the fact that the intersection is located next to a public transit center.

Location	Total Collisions	Red Light Collisions	Ranking
Del Presidio at MT. Freitas Parkway	59	13	7
Grand Avenue at Third Street	27	8	3
Hetherton Street at Third Street	42	6	10
Hetherton Street at Second Street	22	6	4
Hetherton Street at Fifth Avenue	12	4	2
Hetherton Street at Mission Avenue	14	2	11
Grand Avenue at Second Street	21	3	9
A Street at Third Street	25	3	12
Irwin Street at Mission Avenue	18	2	13
Lincoln Avenue at Mission Avenue	28	7	5
Irwin Street at Third Street	31	5	8
Bellam Blvd. at Francisco Blvd. East	30	14	1
Bellam Blvd. at Andersen Drive	17	4	6

Should you have need for further information regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me, at (415)485-3452.

Sincerely,

Officer Jill Cingolani, #467
San Rafael Police Department
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901
415-485-3000
415-485-3452
467@srpd.org

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June 9, 2010

State of California, Department of Transportation
Caltrans District 4
Office of Permits
Mail Station: 5
111 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Re: Second Street and Hetherton Street – Encroachment Permit – Justification

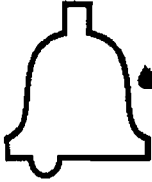
Dear Mr. Brojeni:

The City of San Rafael Police Department and Redflex Traffic Systems conducted preliminary intersection analysis of red light violations at thirteen of the top injury producing intersections in the City. This included a review of intersection collision history and a video taped survey analysis of thirty intersection approaches to test for frequency of violation activity at these intersections. The study results along with collision analysis caused the San Rafael Police Department to focus our attention on collision reduction at the following intersections: Third and Irwin Streets and also we would like to add S/B Hetherton Street at Second Street.

In an effort to measure the local problem, the San Rafael Police Department used United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) 2006 data, which indicates red light violations caused as many as 1,314,261 crashes, 2,950 fatalities and 449,624 injuries. In the year 2005, California reported 28,273 crashes as a result of red light running, producing 343 fatalities and 71,530 injuries. From January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008 the San Rafael Police Department investigated 177 intersection collisions caused by red light violations: These collisions resulted in 54 injuries and zero fatalities.

The financial impact on the citizens in the City of San Rafael because of red light violations resulting in collisions is significant. Additionally, the San Rafael Police Department reviewed the collision history for red light violations in an effort to determine designated intersections that warrant automated photo enforcement. The data below shows the frequency from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008 at the following intersections.

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Location	Total Collisions	Red Light Collisions
Del Presidio at MT. Freitas Parkway	59	13
Grand Avenue at Third Street	27	800
Hetherton Street at Third Street	42	6
Hetherton Street at Second Street	22	6
Hetherton Street at Fifth Avenue	12	4
Hetherton Street at Mission Avenue	14	2
Grand Avenue at Second Street	21	3
A Street at Third Street	25	3
Irwin Street at Mission Avenue	18	2
Lincoln Avenue at Mission Avenue	28	7
Irwin Street at Third Street	31	5
Bellam Blvd. at Francisco Blvd. East	30	14
Bellam Blvd. at Andersen Drive	17	4

Five of the above intersections are Caltrans intersections for southbound or northbound US 101.

Those five intersections produced 13 injuries and zero fatalities because of a red light violation.

Enforcement of red light running from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2008 produced 2613 citations.

The California State Office of Traffic Safety ranks cities of similar size in an effort to provide traffic safety and enforcement personnel with statistical information related to fatal and injury collisions. The rankings are based on population and daily vehicle miles traveled and by population. The data below clearly indicates the need for reduction in

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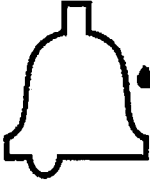
injury collisions and the Police Department believes the red light cameras will help with our problem. Red light cameras not only have an effect on the intersections where they are installed but they can have an affect throughout the City because the motorists think cameras are installed at all intersections within the City.

Agency	Year	County	Group	Population (Avg)	DVMT
San Rafael	2008	MARIN COUNTY	6	58,199	628,420

TYPE OF COLLISION	VICTIMS KILLED & INJURED	RANKING BY DAILY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED	RANKING BY AVERAGE POPULATION
Total Fatal and Injury	266	50/103	37/103
Alcohol Involved	39	26/103	14/103
HBD Driver < 21	4	30/103	23/103
HBD Driver 21 - 34	13	20/103	11/103
Motorcycles	11	35/103	31/103
Pedestrians	41	10/103	2/103
Pedestrians < 15	5	33/103	26/103
Pedestrians 65+	3	29/103	29/103
Bicyclists	45	7/103	7/103
Bicyclists < 15	4	48/103	46/103
Composite		33/103	26/103

TYPE OF COLLISION	FATAL & INJURY COLLISIONS	RANKING BY DAILY VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED	RANKING BY AVERAGE POPULATION
Speed Related	53	30/103	32/103
Nighttime (9:00pm - 2:59am)	17	66/103	57/103
Hit and Run	21	32/103	22/103
DUI ARRESTS	252 0.72%		74/102

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Since this information has come out the City of San Rafael has taken other steps to reduce injury collisions. We have added additional personnel to the Traffic Unit. The Police Department has applied for and received several financial grants through OTS in attempt to reduce collisions. We have installed pedestrian count down clocks to many of the intersections that were reviewed. Our city traffic engineer has lengthened the yellow light phase at many of our intersections. Additionally, he has also added an "all red" phase to most intersections.

The San Rafael Police Department investigates and has spent a significant amount of time researching traffic patterns and collisions at these intersections. Speed is the primary cause for most of those collisions but running a red light is very prevalent at these intersections. I believe the intersections are set-up by Caltrans properly. The intersections are well signed and the timing of the yellow light appears to be within Caltrans specifications.

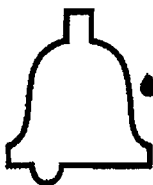
Redflex set up video surveillance at the intersection of Hetheron at Second Street. After reviewing the video it was discovered that 43 cars made a left turn on a red light without stopping when they went from southbound Hetheron Street onto eastbound Second Street. Additionally, 27 more of the cars went straight through on a red light without stopping and continued southbound onto the southbound 101 onramp to US 101.

The San Rafael Police Department's goal is to reduce injury collisions and improve public safety. This will be achieved at intersections with the greatest historical number of collisions factored against the number of unabated violations. Not all intersections warranting automated enforcement are suitable for consideration (example; absence of stop bars, signals installed below recommended height or potential for increased rear-end collisions). This installation will improve intersections safety with a halo effect extending to other intersections in the immediate area.

The volume of traffic in the City of San Rafael is steadily increasing with area growth. Our population nearly doubles during daytime hours and the on and off ramps to and from US 101 are major arteries into and out of the City of San Rafael.

There has been a steady increase in commute traffic into the City of San Rafael. The Police Department wants to make it as safe as possible for the citizens who travel on the roads throughout the city. The Police Department is trying to come up with different ways to prevent collisions. The Police Department believes red light photo enforcement is a good tool and we would like to install the cameras at selected Caltrans intersections.

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The San Rafael City Council conducted a public hearing into this matter and many of the facts contained in this letter were presented at that meeting. Automated red light enforcement received overwhelming approval from City Council and the public. An objective of this program is positive public awareness and education. Strong public support for this program will help ensure the City meets its primary goal of increased intersection safety through improved traffic law compliance.

The San Rafael Police Department will continue to seek community support by erecting roadway warning signs at entrances to the intersections; conducting 30-day warning period at the commencement of the program at new intersections; preparing press releases and press conferences; a community advertising campaign against red light running; and providing information regarding the operation and technology of the program.

The City of San Rafael, specifically, the San Rafael Police Department is seeking encroachment on California State Highway right-of-way at the intersection of Hetheron Street at Second Street, southbound direction only, allowing for installation of automated red light enforcement equipment. The San Rafael Police Department seeks encroachment for a period of no less than five years which is the length of the Redflex contract.

Should you have need for further contact regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me, at (415)458-5301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn McElderry'.

Lt. Glenn McElderry
City of San Rafael Police Department