

Staff Report

July 20, 2005

TO: Davis City Council

FROM: Jim Hyde, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Red Light Photo Enforcement

Recommendation

1. That the City Manager be authorized to execute a contract for the lease, installation, and service of a red light photo enforcement system from Nestor Traffic Systems.
2. Hold a public hearing per 21455.6(a) VC.

Fiscal Impact

The vendor, City Attorney, and the Police Department agree that any payment plan that would *guarantee* cost neutrality would likely violate California law. However, the vendor has committed to working with the City to operate their system on a cost-neutral basis. Meaning, adjustments will be made throughout the term of the contract to decrease the City's payment to the vendor so the system operates at no cost to the City. Although the system is intended as a safety program and not a revenue program, it should realize a positive cash flow from citations. Unfortunately we cannot determine at this time what that positive flow would be. Currently, reviews from traffic fines are deposited into the City's Traffic Safety Fund.

Background and Analysis

In the United States, red light running results in as many as 260,000 crashes each year causing approximately 181,000 injuries and 750 fatalities with an economic impact from lost work time, medical bills, insurance increases and property damage is estimated at \$7 billion dollars each year. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), reducing the number of red light running crashes is especially important as these are, on average, more deadly and damaging than other types of crashes at signalized intersections. Yet, red light runners know that the risk of being caught by traditional methods is low.

An effective automated photo enforcement program can reverse those odds. It changes driving behavior and that translates into reduction in crashes associated to red light running. It puts the cost of the program onto the violator, as well as allowing the agency to focus precious officer resources for more serious crime prevention. These systems provide for better officer efficiency and safety; call-outs for accident clean ups, investigations and court appearances are reduced.

City staff began looking at red light photo enforcement cameras in the summer of 2004. Following discussions with the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, staff felt there was support for and a need for this technology. A Request for Proposal (RFP) was written and released. Four companies responded to the RFP. Three vendors made presentations to a review committee comprised of police personnel and the traffic engineer. An extensive reference check was done on each of the vendors. Based on the information received during the vendor presentations, the reference checks, and the ability of the vendor to meet the City's stated needs and goals, the review committee selected Nestor Traffic Systems as the vendor of choice.

The vendor is working with staff to determine the appropriate intersection(s) for camera placement and the engineering of the intersection(s). Additionally, they will provide the installation and maintenance, will provide the violation detection and violator notification, and will help the city provide a public education and advertising program.

Per 21455.6 (a) of the California Vehicle Code a "city council or county board of supervisors shall conduct a public hearing on the proposed use of an automated enforcement system authorized under Section 21455.5 prior to authorizing the city or county to enter into a contract for the use of the system."

A contract has been negotiated and agreed upon by both parties. The contract has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's Office (see attachment).