



CITY OF GLENDALE CALIFORNIA
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

March 17, 2009

AGENDA ITEM

Preliminary report on red light camera photo enforcement and motion authorizing staff to extend the existing agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems for six months.

(1) Motion Authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the existing contract with Redflex Traffic Systems for six months.

COUNCIL ACTION

Public Hearing Ordinance Consent Calendar Action Item Report Only
Approved for March 17, 2009 calendar

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

Signatures

Submitted

Stephen M. Zurn, Director of Public Works

Fok:

Randy G. Adams, Chief of Police

Prepared

Carl Povilaitis, Police Lieutenant

Wayne Ko, Principal Traffic Engineer

Approved

James E. Starbird, City Manager

Reviewed

Jano Baghdanian

Traffic & Transportation Administrator

Scott H. Howard, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council authorize the City Manager to extend the contract with Redflex Traffic Systems for a period of six months. During this time frame Staff will complete its evaluation of the program and complete negotiations for a longer term contract and present a final recommendation to the City Council regarding this program.

SUMMARY

In 2008, the City of Glendale entered into a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems for the provisions of red light photo enforcement at up to five approaches at intersections within the city. The City Council authorized a twelve month pilot project of the system, and the twelve month period commenced when the first citation was issued. Citations were issued at the first two intersections on March 25, 2008 and by July of 2008, photo enforcement cameras were in service at five approaches at four intersections. The red light camera enforcement systems are still in service at Mountain/Verdugo, Glendale/Broadway, Pacific/Colorado, and Los Feliz/ San Fernando. The current contract is about to expire, and Staff is recommending a six month extension to the contract. The extension of the contract will provide staff with the time to complete its evaluation of the program, assess the viability of a longer term contract, and present a final recommendation to the City Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

During the extension of the existing contract, the cost of red light photo enforcement will continue to cost \$32,100.00 per month or \$192,600.00 during the six month extension. Based upon the number of citations being issued, Staff believes that the traffic fine revenue received by the City from these citations will continue to offset the costs of the program.

BACKGROUND

Staff is generally satisfied with the services provided by the vendor and its performance under the existing contract. Redflex has assisted in the evaluation of intersections as potential locations were identified based upon traffic volumes, complaints, and traffic collision data. They have designed and installed the proper equipment, and have been very responsive to staff requests for maintenance or design changes that improve the quality and operation of the system.

Although Reflex provides the camera equipment and processing service, the decision regarding the issuance of citations rests solely with the Glendale Police Department. The number of red light photo enforcement citations issued has been declining over time. In fact the number of citations issued in January of 2009 was 60% less than the number of citations issued in July of 2008. Staff believes that the reduction in the number of citations issued on a monthly basis is lower because people are becoming aware that photo enforcement systems are in use within the city. As a result, they are driving more carefully at these intersections; hence there are a lower number of red light violations as a direct result of the red light photo enforcement systems. The table below shows the

number of citations issued by the Glendale Police Department between July of 2008 and January of 2009.

Month	Colorado/Pacific	Gln/Broadway	Los Feliz/SF 1	Los Feliz/SF 2	Mtn/Verdugo	Total
Jul-08	102	99	374	204	559	1338
Aug-08	118	100	518	197	305	1238
Sep-08	116	106	503	165	631	1521
Oct-08	61	101	192	77	300	731
Nov-08	69	75	0*	0*	261	405
Dec-08	102	72	234	44	281	733
Jan-09	69	44	181	38	226	558
Total	637	597	2002	725	2563	6524

*System was out of service due to street rehabilitation/maintenance

Based upon preliminary data provided by the County of Los Angeles to Redflex Traffic Systems, it appears that the fine revenue from this program offsets the costs involved in the operation. However, since the county commingles the red light enforcement fines with the traffic fine revenue received from other citations when it transfers funds to the city, a more detailed analysis is required to verify this information. Both Police and Public Works Staff have requested that Internal Audit review and verify the financial information before a final recommendation is made to the City Council regarding any longer term extension to this contract.

EXHIBITS

None.

MOTION

Moved by Council Member _____, seconded by Council Member _____, that the existing agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. is hereby extended for a period of six additional months to further evaluate the pilot project entitled "Red Light Photo Enforcement Pilot Program" at various intersections in the City of Glendale. The City Manager is authorized to execute an amendment to the agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc., subject to approval by the City Attorney.


Vote as follows:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

ATTORNEY
DATE 3-11-09