

Analysis: Loma Linda yellow lights were illegally short

[Ryan Hagen, Staff Writer](#)

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LOMA LINDA - Nearly 2,000 people received unjustified red-light tickets here in 2006, according to an analysis of city documents.

From the time the city installed red-light cameras in December of 2005 until November of 2006, three intersections had yellow lights set 0.3 seconds shorter than California's legal minimum, the documents show.

The editor of a website devoted to tracking red-light cameras received the documents under a public records request and posted them at www.highwayrobbery.net.

Extrapolating data from March and October of 2006 - the only months released before the change - suggests that about 1,890 drivers received tickets for running a red light by 0.3 seconds or less.

But City Manager Jarb Thaipejr said the city has always followed state requirements.

"Why would we not?" he asked. "I can't speak for what a website says."

Mayor Rhodes Rigsby said he was not aware of any violation but that, in general, he trusted the website and has taken its advice in the past.

He also said he distrusted the company that operates the cameras and will stop using them when the contract with Redflex expires in December.

"I as the mayor am apologetic to the community for the Redflex camera business that we were associated with," he said. "I hate these cameras more than anyone else in Loma Linda."

He said the city could not refund the fines because its camera-generated profit for the past five years totalled less than \$500.

The too-short lights were for eastbound Barton Road at Anderson Street and Barton Road at Mountain View, plus east- and westbound Redlands Boulevard at Anderson Street.

The 45 mph speed limit at these locations means a light must remain yellow for at least 4.3 seconds, according to a Caltrans formula that was also mandatory in 2006. The light was set to 4.0 seconds until November 2006. The lights have since been further lengthened.

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The city can't refund these \$400+ plus fines because of a lack of profit???

Everyone who received a red-light fine ought to sue.

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these lights are a hazard more then a preventive. I lost count on how many people almost crash over avioding theses illegally set traps. If they do not generate anything for the city, make it safer then take them out!

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\$756,000 illegal charged fines can not be repaid---hogwash!!

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Loma Linda has \$25 million cash squirreled away in the bank, fallow (earning 1/2% interest). The City can afford to make the refunds, and should - putting the money back into circulation will help the local economy.

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Loma Linda camera's and Redflex in general are "phishing" camera's. They are just trying to get info on a driver so they can make a buck. If it does not say to contact a court, ignore it.

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Thank You Mayor Rigsby.