



CITY OF SAN CARLOS

AGENDA CATEGORY:	
BUSINESS SESSION:	<u> X </u>
CONSENT CALENDAR:	<u> </u>
PUBLIC HEARING:	<u> </u>
STUDY SESSION:	<u> </u>
INFORMATION:	<u> </u>

COUNCIL/RDA MEETING DATE: April 12, 2010

ITEM TITLE: Notification to terminate current contract with Redflex by October 27, 2011

RECOMMENDATION

Request the approval of City Council to have the City Attorney's Office provide notice to Redflex, informing them the City does not desire to extend the current three year contract beyond October 27, 2011.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently the red light camera enforcement program is running an average monthly deficit of \$2,213.00. Once the contract expires, that monthly deficit will be eliminated.

BACKGROUND

In 2008, the City Council authorized a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a vendor to provide a red light photo enforcement system. After completion of a competitive bid process, Redflex Incorporated was chosen to provide photo enforcement services for the intersection of Brittan Avenue and Industrial Road. This intersection was one of three surveyed as potential candidates for red light photo enforcement. City Council authorized a contract for services with the San Mateo Police Department to manage the program including; violation verification, violator notification and testimony in Traffic Court. After a thirty day waiting period and public notification, the system went live November 27, 2008.

Cameras captured red light violations for westbound Brittan Avenue at Industrial Road. The system averaged in excess of (10) violations per twenty four hour period. In January 2009 it was discovered that the yellow warning light duration was not consistent with state recommended standards. This was modified and then modified again based on a different variable. Subsequent to these modifications the average violation rates declined to (2) violations per twenty four hour period. All citations that were issued to motorists during the time frame that the yellow light timing did not match the state standard were recalled. Refunds were also issued to those motorists who had already paid their fines.

After continued monitoring of the intersection, the police department concluded that the red light photo enforcement at this location was no longer needed. The City Council was informed in October of 2009 that the camera had enhanced pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety and should now be moved to another location. In October 2009, the system average had declined further to (1.5) violations per twenty four hour period. The City Council requested that the movement of the camera be postponed until after the 2009 holiday season, believing that removal of the camera during a time of increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic could decrease pedestrian and vehicular traffic safety. Statistical data collected during the last six months of 2009 revealed no increase in red light violations, showing even more of a reduction in December 2009, down to (1.3) violations per twenty four hour period. This is an overall reduction of 87% in the number of violations that occur in a twenty four hour period since the

camera went live in November 2008. This has also resulted in an average monthly deficit of \$2,213.00.

(See charts below for 6 month breakdown).

Revenue	\$29,689.04 (6 months)	\$4948.17/month
San Mateo PD	\$15,500.00/year	\$1291.67/month
Redflex	\$70,440.00/year	\$5870.00/month
Net Loss		-\$2213.50/month

Date	# of Violations	# of Citations Issued	Average Violations/Day	Average Citations/Day
July 2009	62	62 (100%)	2	2
August 2009	58	58 (100%)	1.9	1.9
September 2009	56	56 (100%)	1.9	1.9
October 2009	45	44 (98%)	1.5	1.4
November 2009	37	24 (65%)	1.2	0.8
December 2009	40	36 (90%)	1.3	1.2
Totals	298	280 (94%)	avg 1.6/day	

Based on previous Redflex intersection surveys, the eastbound approach for Holly Street and Industrial Road revealed a significant number of violations. Consideration to move the camera to this location was discussed, however in late October 2009, it was learned that the Department of Public Works was having a new advanced looping system installed for the eastbound traffic signal on Holly Street at Industrial Road. This was due to the inconsistent cycling of the traffic signal. Department of Public Works Director, Robert Weil, informed the Police Department that this new advanced looping system could improve the traffic flow. He recommended that a new survey of the intersection be conducted by Redflex after the installation of the advanced looping system was completed. Redflex was informed of this information and agreed that the intersection would need to be re-surveyed.

ANALYSIS

Redflex completed another survey for the eastbound approach for Holly Street at Industrial Road in March 2010. The survey revealed that red light violations at that location had been eliminated completely after the installation of the advanced looping system.

Other intersections surveyed in late 2009 included Holly Street and El Camino Real and Holly Street and Old County Road. Due to traffic flow changes with the advanced looping system on Holly Street, a new survey would need to be completed to see if a camera at these locations would be warranted. The intersection for N/B traffic on El Camino Real and San Carlos Ave was also studied as a potential site. However, a large mature heritage tree prevented the placement of the camera at that site.

A recent review of our traffic accident data at the intersections controlled by signal lights within the city limits, did not reveal any locations a red light camera would benefit and enhance traffic safety.

ADMINISTRATION

Staff has been in discussions with the City Attorney's Office to examine and review the contract with Redflex. We have learned that moving our current camera or installing additional cameras will extend the current contract out for three additional years. Our current contract expires on October 27, 2011. We must provide Redflex with written notice 180 days prior to the last day of the contract, otherwise a renewal option will automatically be activated and a new three year term agreement will begin.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives available to the City Council include:

1. Request the approval of City Council to have the City Attorney's Office provide notice to Redflex, informing them the City does not desire to extend the current three year contract beyond October 27, 2011;
2. Continue to survey other locations for the camera to be moved;
3. Provide staff with alternative direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory P. Rothaus
CHIEF OF POLICE

Approved for submission by:

Mark Weiss, City Manager