

9-12-17 330 pm

Subject: Red light cam renewal, Sept. 12 agenda

Honorable Councilmembers:

In a last minute supplemental staff report, staff claims big drops in accidents, but they compared ALL accidents while they should have looked at just injury accidents (fender benders must be excluded as reporting of them varies with the sheriff's willingness to respond to a minor accident). Further, staff may have cherry picked the years; their analysis doesn't include the years right after the cameras were installed.

Here is an example, from another red light camera City (also a Redflex customer), illustrating why fender benders must be excluded from the stats. A staff report presented to the city council in the City of Ventura in 2015 demonstrated the effect of the cost cutting that was common ten years ago - and some sleight of hand. (Ventura has had red light cameras since 2000.)

In three prominent places in Ventura's written staff report, staff claimed a 75% reduction of accidents.

1. In the summary, on page 2.
2. In this table, found on page 4.

Year Red Light Collisions % Change from 2000 CATSS (red light camera) Launch

1998	124	
1999	128	
2000	132	
2001	107	19%
2002	115	13%
2003	100	24%
2004	101	23%
2005	93	30%
2006	92	30%
2007	45	66%
2008	41	69%
2009	40	70%
2010	39	70%
2011	34	74%
2012	38	71%
2013	36	73%
2014	34	75%

Table transcribed from Ventura staff report for 3-30-15 council meeting

3. In the first PowerPoint slide.

Ventura's mayor noticed the dramatic change between 2006 and 2007, and during the meeting she asked staff about it. Staff's response (at 3:20:20 in the City's online video) was:

"The way the police department reports collisions now is vastly different than we did when we started this program. Now we only report - correct me if I'm wrong - now we only report injury or major property damage collisions. That's different. Our total collision numbers are down quite a bit because the reporting is different."

Regards,

(highwayrobbery.net)