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Subject:For May 7 meeting, red light cameras, item 4, Ventura City Council

Date:Sun, 6 May 2018 23:38:21 -0700

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Reply-To:Jim

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5-6-18

Re: May 7 council meeting, item 4, red light cameras

Honorable Councilmembers:

On page two of the staff report is a graph depicting a huge decrease in collisions, supposedly brought about by the installation of the red light cameras.

Three years ago staff submitted the same information to you, but in a table. (The image below is from the staff report for the 3-30-15 council meeting.)

Year	Red light collisions	% Change from 2000 CATSS 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%

That 2015 table showed the same remarkable drop after 2006, which prompted a councilmember to inquire about it. Staff's reply (at 3:20:20 in the 3-30-15 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."

With all due respect to City staff, any statistical analysis should be done by a professional with credentials in the field of statistics, one who is free of other ties or contracts with the City.

It is also noticeable that over the years there hasn't been the decline in running and ticketing that is supposed to happen in the presence of heavy enforcement. Instead, there has been a noticeable increase. Here are Ventura's annual totals of tickets, from the highwayrobbery [dot] net website except where noted.

2001: 3338
2002: 6814
2003: 5576
2004: 4966

2005: 4606
2006: 4360
2007: 4729
2008: 7375
2009: 5500
2010: 4394
2011: 4678
2012: 4322
2013: 5347
2014: 6274
2015: 6882
2016: 8735
2017: 8553

FY 2016-2017, per staff report, page 2: 9191

Is the increase an attempt to avoid the low-ticketing penalty - like a quota - built into the contract you signed in 2015?

If you decide to stay a decision on the proposed two year extension, would you please publish the new staff report well ahead of time so that I and other members of the public can have more than a weekend to examine the statistics and comment?

Regards,

Jim