

**SUBJECT: SUSPENDING THE RED LIGHT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

**PREPARED BY: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
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**STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:**

The City Council will consider suspending the red light enforcement program.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Direct staff to:

- 1) Suspend the red light enforcement program.
- 2) Evaluate and implement other options for improving traffic and pedestrian safety at signalized intersections.

**BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:**

The City of West Hollywood first began using cameras for red light enforcement in 1999 and the program initially proved to be successful in improving traffic safety because it increased drivers' compliance with the red signals. In recent years, however, the benefits of the program have been steadily declining and studies have demonstrated that red light enforcement programs have had less impact on safety. For these reasons, most of the cities in California that previously used red light cameras for enforcement have discontinued their programs. While West Hollywood initially installed the red light enforcement program at eight intersections (24 cameras), the current program is in place at four intersections (8 cameras).

The contract with the most recent vendor for the City's red light enforcement program (Gatso) ended in March and the equipment has been removed from the four intersections where the cameras were positioned. Staff's intent is to explore and evaluate other options for improving traffic and pedestrian safety at intersections throughout the City. For example, staff recently installed countdown pedestrian signals, leading pedestrian intervals (where the WALK symbol activates several seconds before the vehicular green light), and in-roadway warning lights, all of which have improved pedestrian and vehicular safety. Staff will continue to seek additional measures that will reduce accident risk and to research actions that other cities have taken to enhance safety. This would be a more effective and potentially more beneficial approach for improving safety. The effects of suspending the red light enforcement program and implementing alternative safety measures at the intersections will be presented to Council at a future meeting.

**CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST**

**HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:**

This item is consistent with the Primary Strategic Goal(s) (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Program(s) (OSP) of:

- OSP-4: Transportation System Improvement.
- OSP-14: Enhance Technology and Access for the City and its Citizens.

In addition, this item is compliant with the following goal(s) of the West Hollywood General Plan:

- M-5: Create an environmentally and financially sustainable transportation network that provides for the mobility and livability needs of West Hollywood residents, businesses and visitors.

**EVALUATION PROCESSES:**

The effects of suspending the red light enforcement program and implementing the proposed traffic and pedestrian safety improvements will be measured by continuing to monitor collision statistics along the City’s street network.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:**

The removal of the red light enforcement program and related equipment will reduce the consumption of electricity at the intersections and the proposed traffic and pedestrian safety improvements will promote and encourage increased pedestrian activity.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

The public has provided ongoing input to staff regarding the operation of the red light enforcement program and has encouraged the City to eliminate the program.

**OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS / CITY ENGINEERING DIVISION

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The suspension of the red light camera program will result in a General Fund savings of \$542,000 per year, as detailed below.

Expenditure Reduction – Red Light Enforcement Program	\$ 485,000
Expenditure Reduction – Sheriff Photo Deputy	\$ 314,000
Revenue Reduction – Red Light Infractions	\$ 257,000
Net Fiscal Impact (FY21) – General Fund Savings	\$ 542,000

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None.