SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER

OCT 14 2011

Defendant and

Appellant.

ALAN CARLSON, Clerk of the Count

APPELLATE DIVISION

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF ORANGE

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF) CASE NO. 30-2010-00421979 CALIFORNIA,)

Plaintiff and) JUDGMENT ON APPEAL
Respondent,) from the
SUPERIOR COURT
vs.) of
ORANGE COUNTY

PETER G) ORANGE COUNTY
) CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER
)

HON. CARMEN LUEGE COMMISSIONER

The declaration submitted in opposition to the motion to exclude stated that the District Attorney's office had provided "verbal authorization" for the City Attorney's prosecution of red light camera cases on "several" unspecified occasions prior to execution of the declaration on April 13, 2010. Even if verbal authorization were adequate for purposes of Government Code § 41803.5(a), the repeated giving of consent for such prosecutions implies that consent has been given on a case-by-case basis, and in the absence of any evidence that consent was given in this particular case it should not have been inferred that proper consent had been given. In the absence of proper authority for prosecution of the case, the trial court lacked jurisdiction to adjudicate the matter. (People v. Municipal Court for Ventura Judicial Dist. (Pellegrino) (1972) 27 Cal.App.3d 193, 206; see also Menveg v. Municipal Court of Los Angeles Judicial Dist. (1964) 226

Cal.App.2d 569.)

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In addition, the trial court erred in denying appellant's motion to dismiss under Penal Code § 1382(a), inasmuch as the pendency of appellant's premature motion to exclude did not justify a 10-day postponement of the trial date beyond the 45-day statutory limit. Because refiling of the charge would have been barred by Penal Code § 1387(a), the error was prejudicial. (Avila v. Municipal Court (1983) 148 Cal. App. 3d 807, 812.)

The trial court also erred prejudicially in admitting trial exhibits 2A and 3 into evidence over appellant's constitutional and evidentiary objections, inasmuch as Exhibit 3, which provides the only authentication for Exhibit 2A, is inescapably "testimonial" and is inadmissible hearsay under Evidence Code §§ § 1271(b) and § 1280 (b). Because the only evidence tying appellant to the subject vehicle is the enhanced image of the driver in Exhibit 2A and the statements in Exhibit 3, the error in admitting these trial exhibits was prejudicial.

The judgment is reversed with direction that the charge be dismissed.

> Chest Claura, ROBERT GANNON, Presiding Judge GREGORY H. LEWIS, Judge

T. GLASS

Judge

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