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City of El Cajon Agenda Report

MEETING: 09/24/2013

ITEM NO: 4.4



TO:

Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro Tem Wells,

Councilmembers Ambrose, Kendrick, McClellan

FROM:

Chief of Police Jim Redman

SUBJECT: Agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. for Red-light Photo

Enforcement Services.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council direct staff to terminate the Agreement for Red-light Photo Enforcement Services with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. effective immediately.

BACKGROUND: On February 26, 2013, the El Cajon City Council voted to suspend the "Agreement" with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. for a period of six months. The cameras were covered in lieu of removal to facilitate the suspension. At the end of the suspension period, a review of traffic collision data was conducted by the El Cajon Police Department. This data compared collisions at red-light photo enforcement intersections while cameras were active in 2012 and when inactive during 2013. The data shows that from February 27, 2013 to August 31, 2013, while the cameras were covered, there were 39 reported collisions at red-light photo enforcement intersections as compared to 36 reported collisions during the same time period in 2012. This review included data for intersections without red-light photo enforcement cameras and reflects 34 reported collisions in 2013 compared to 28 reported in 2012. Based on these comparisons, the overall increase in traffic collisions is statistically insignificant.

Although the red-light cameras have been covered during the suspension period, Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. has continued to record detections. Detections occur when a motor vehicle activates a set threshold, which triggers the camera. Detections merely activate the camera to capture the event and are not the sole bases in determining if a violation occurred. On average, one-third of all detections result in citations issued.

Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. has reported a significant increase in detections since the system was covered; however, because the cameras were unable to capture the event, this data cannot be verified and is not supported by the aforementioned collision data.

Based on this review, there is no significant difference in collision statistics between the 2012 and 2013 time periods. Therefore, staff recommends that the City Council terminate the agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. effective immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT: The City's net revenue has varied significantly over recent years. During Fiscal Year 2011-12, the revenue collected from the citations issued was approximately \$360,000. This was offset by \$361,200 paid for services to Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. and staff costs of \$60,878 resulting in a General Fund subsidy of over \$62,000 for the program.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Jim Redman

CHIEF OF POLICE

Douglas Williford CITY MANAGER

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