# MEMORANDUM Office of the Chief of Police

**Date:** May 15, 2012

**To:** Patrick D. O'Keeffe, City Manager

From: Ken James

**Subject:** Discussion of the Red Light Camera Enforcement Program

### **Summary**

Staff has performed an analysis of the Red Light Camera Enforcement Program's effectiveness as well as a cost analysis of the program and is recommending that the City discontinue the program.

#### Discussion

In 2003, Council authorized the utilization of cameras at the intersections of Powell and Christie, 40<sup>th</sup> and Horton and 40<sup>th</sup> and Hollis to capture red light violations. At that time Council held a public hearing and authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. to provide cameras for the red light enforcement program. The first intersection to have the cameras installed was Powell and Christie.

The system went fully functional in 2005 when the installation of cameras at the intersections of  $40^{th}$  and Hollis and  $40^{th}$  and Horton was completed. Additionally the intersection of  $40^{th}$  and San Pablo was identified but due to delays in working with Cal Trans the Program was never initiated there.

The cameras at the intersection of Powell and Christie capture red light violations for east and west bound Powell Street as well as the left turn movement from westbound Powell to southbound Christie and eastbound Powell to northbound Christie. The cameras do not capture violators for either north or southbound Christie nor right turn violations from either east or westbound Powell onto Christie.

The cameras at the intersection of  $40^{th}$  and Horton capture red light violations for east and westbound  $40^{th}$  as well as the left turn movements from  $40^{th}$  onto Horton. Additionally the cameras capture the right hand turning movement from eastbound  $40^{th}$  to southbound Horton.

The cameras at 40<sup>th</sup> and Hollis capture only the east and westbound 40<sup>th</sup> Street violators. Neither Hollis traffic nor the turning movements from 40<sup>th</sup> to Hollis are captured.

An analysis of the effectiveness of the program from 2005 through 2011 has revealed the program to be effective in reducing the number of red light violations. The table

below illustrates the number of violations captured for each year and the number of citations issued. It should be noted that after reviewing a violation Police Department staff may not issue a citation because the driver of the vehicle cannot be clearly identified.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Violations</u>	<u>Citations</u>
2005	13,206	9,002
2006	15,151	8,484
2007	16,844	9,787
2008	14,488	10,763
2009	13,843	9,002
2010	7,238	5,211
2011	6,626	4,995

The camera system was inoperable at the intersection of Powell and Christie for approximately six months during 2010 due to the sewer construction on Powell Street. This down time resulted in a decrease in the number of citations and fines during that time period. By averaging the number of citations issued for the 2 years prior to 2010 and the year after, staff estimated that 635 fewer citations were issued as a result of the cameras not being in operation.

Staff also analyzed the number of accidents at each of the covered intersections for the same seven year period and found that the red light cameras did not significantly impact the number of accidents. An analysis of the accidents at these intersections revealed that the majority of the accidents were caused by violations not related to red light violations. For example the majority of the accidents at Powell and Christie are the result of turning violations from southbound Christie to westbound Powell.

Staff also conducted a cost analysis of the red light program for a 22 month period spanning from December 2009 through September 2011. This analysis included the staff time needed to administer the red light program. This time included time spent by Police Department staff to review violations and authorize citations, appear in court, and respond to the various Public Records Act requests and discovery motions.

Additionally, the analysis included the time spent by staff of the City Attorney's Office responding to discovery motions and Public Records Act requests. The total cost of the staff time spent administering the Program was \$181,305.

During this 22 month time period the City received \$547,541 in fines and expended \$533,204 to Redflex in lease payments for the system, resulting in a net gain of \$14,336. When the cost of the staff time is considered the City actually expended \$166,928 over the revenues generated by the Program.

As mentioned above the cameras at the intersection of Powell and Christie were inoperable for six months during this evaluation period, resulting in fewer citations and less revenue from the fines. By comparing the number of citations issue during the 22 month period to the fines collected during that period, the City received approximately \$56 per citation. Adjusting to account for the fewer number of citations

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issued due to the cameras being down, approximately \$35,818 of revenue was lost. Taking this estimate into consideration the City would have expended approximately \$131,119 over the revenues generated.

The Cost Analysis and effectiveness was discussed at the March Transportation Committee meeting and the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that the program be terminated

### **Fiscal Impact**

The Finance Division has estimated that the City would net a gain or approximately \$100,000 per year if the red light camera program was eliminated.

#### Recommendation

Staff is recommending that Council approve the termination of the red light camera enforcement program.

Ken James Chief of Police

Approved and Forwarded to City Council

Patrick C Keeffe

City Manager

Attachments: Cost Accounting Analysis

## CAO - Red-light Camera Enforcement: Cost Accounting

Synopsis: The following cost accounting of the Red-light camera program from December, 2009 to September, 2011 (22 months) is as follows:

The City expended \$181,304.74 in direct staff time related to the Red-light Program;

The City received \$547,540.79 in revenue from all red-light camera

citations/traffic school; and

The City paid Redflex Traffic Systems \$533,204.34 from the City.

The City received only \$14,336.46 in revenue after paying for Redflex's services from the funding received from red-light camera violations. However, if you take staffs time into account the City actually expended \$166,968.28 over these 22 months with no financial return.

Emeryville Police Department Staff	Hourly Rate*	Average Hours per Week	Total Cost to City per Month <sup>†</sup>	Cost for 22 Months Reviewed
PST, Rebecca Sylvester	\$36.88	36 hrs	\$5,748.85	\$126,474.70
Responds to call and walk-ins for information, issues citations, conducts DMV research to identify drivers and attends all court hearings on behalf of EPD.				

City Attorney Office				
Dominique B. Burton, Paralegal	\$51.91	4 hrs	\$899.08	\$19,779.76
Responds to all Public Records Act Request and drafts City's response to Informal Discovery Request regarding Program.				
Michael A. Guina,	\$183.92	2 hrs	\$1,592.74	\$35,050.28
Assistant City Attorney				
Reviews drafts and finalizes Informal Discovery Request.  (Additional litigation activities related to recent challenges to the Program are not included in this accounting.)				

Funds Paid to Redflex Traffic Systems:

Month, Year	Base Fee	Telecommunication Charges
December, 2009	\$24,000	\$304.27
January, 2010	\$24,000	\$304.43
February, 2010	\$24,000	\$319.36
March, 2010	\$24,000	\$314.80
April, 2010	\$24,000	\$314.80
May, 2010	\$24,000	\$249.50
June, 2010	\$24,000	\$249.50
July, 2010	\$24,000	\$206.63

<sup>\*</sup> Hourly Rates include salary plus benefits.

<sup>†</sup> Monthly Rate represents 4.33/weeks.

# CAO - Red-light Camera Enforcement: Cost Accounting

August, 2010	\$24,000	\$276.19	
September, 2010	\$24,000	\$276.29	
October, 2010	\$24,000	\$139.80	
November, 2010	\$24,000	\$242.99	
December, 2010	\$24,000	\$189.90	
January, 2011	\$24,000	\$189.90	
February, 2011	\$24,000	\$69.90	
March, 2011	\$24,000	\$323.73	
April, 2011	\$24,000	\$193.73	
May, 2011	\$24,000	\$228.73	
June, 2011	\$24,000	\$193.72	
July, 2011	\$24,000	\$228.73	
August, 2011	\$24,000	\$193.72	
September, 2011	\$24,000	\$193.72	
			GRAND TOTAL
TOTALS	\$528,000	\$5,204.34	
			\$533,204.34

Funds Received from Alameda County, Superior Court:

Month, Year	Code: Red-light	Code: Red-light	Red-Light	Total Revenue	
	Violations	Traffic School	Camera	Received from	
		Base	Total	Alameda County	
December, 2009	\$15,701.98	\$17,016.70	\$32,718.68	\$58,920.05	
January, 2010	\$14,904.48	\$15,583.15	\$30,487.63	\$54,810.48	
February, 2010	\$12,481.84	\$16,203.96	\$28,685.80	\$52,028.57	
March, 2010	\$16,027.02	\$18,096.83	\$34,123.85	\$61,651.88	
April, 2010	\$15,713.30	\$18,315.82	\$34,029.12	\$59,353.02	
May, 2010	\$16,716.57	\$15,945.72	\$32,662.29	\$57,200.81	
June, 2010	\$15,321.15	\$15,257.01	\$30,578.16	\$57,479.72	
July, 2010	\$11,548.45	\$11,357.72	\$22,906.17	\$44,150.38	
August, 2010	\$10,870.43	<b>\$15,673.91</b>	\$26,544.34	\$49,531.74	
September, 2010	\$12,680.60	\$12,494.82	\$25,175.42	\$47,311.70	
October, 2010	\$9,921.41	\$9,961.97	\$19,883.38	\$39,771.81	
November, 2010	\$11,168.39	\$11,220.19	\$22,388.58	\$44,094.05	
December, 2010	\$9,662.56	\$10,310.15	\$19,972.71	\$40,328.07	
January, 2011	\$10,051.04	\$11,687.19	\$21,738.23	\$40,943.22	
February, 2011	\$10,206.59	\$10,186.98	\$20,393.57	\$38,862.09	
March, 2011	\$12,754.39	\$13,702.99	\$26,457.38	\$49,277.68	
April, 2011	\$11,392.26	\$11,520.20	\$22,912.46	\$44,074.84	
May, 2011	\$9,375.63	\$11,189.93	\$20,565.56	\$39,238.39	
June, 2011	\$8,909.20	\$10,455.29	\$19,364.49	\$37,687.91	
July, 2011	\$6,923.11	\$9,230.59	\$16,153.70	\$34,087.90	
August, 2011	\$10,085.16	\$9,141.50	\$19,226.66	\$40,466.05	
September, 2011	\$9,542.60	\$11,030.01	\$20,572.61	\$40,809.30	
TOTALS PER TYPE:	\$261,958.16	\$285,582.63	\$547,540.79	\$1,032,079.66	