

- TRAFFIC

Red light cameras gone dark

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The red light cameras are idle as northbound traffic moves along at the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Robinhood Drive in Stockton. CALIXTRO ROMIAS/THE RECORD

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• **By Joe Goldeen**
Record Staff Writer

Posted Jun. 5, 2015 at 8:28 PM

STOCKTON — The city's red light cameras have been turned off.

And it's been that way for several months, at least.

Those light-gray camera boxes with the big flashbulbs, seen at about a dozen major intersections throughout Stockton, were intended to catch motorists driving through red lights. Instead they have become relics.

City Manager Kurt Wilson terminated the agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems Inc., the company contracted to operate Stockton's Red Light Photo Enforcement Program, as of Feb. 27.

The red light cameras were intended to provide 24-hour automated enforcement and increase traffic safety by reducing accidents caused by red-light runners. Such accidents cause an average of two fatalities nationally each day, according to American Traffic Solutions.

A police study conducted last fall determined that after 10 years, Stockton's cameras neither deterred vehicle crashes nor penciled out financially to the city's advantage.

"In September 2014, the Stockton Police Department began evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the Redflex red light camera enforcement program, which was in place since the fall of 2004," police spokesman Officer Joe Silva said Thursday in a written statement.

"Staff determined the program was not cost neutral for the city and found no evidence that it has significantly reduced traffic collisions. In February 2015, we sent Redflex a letter stating we were terminating the contract. The city and Redflex are currently working through the final details of the termination."

And Stockton is not alone in ending the program. Jeff Cohn, founder of the website PhotoEnforced.com that has been following the industry since 2001, said 68 cities throughout California have removed or temporarily deactivated their red light cameras.

"Redflex had been in partnership with the city of Stockton for many years providing a successful road safety program. Sadly the city of Stockton decided not to renew the contract. We hope that the serious issue of red light running, crashes and injuries do not escalate after the removal of the systems," Jack Weaver, vice president of client services at Phoenix-based Redflex said in a statement .

According to information provided by the city to the website HighwayRobbery.net through a California Public Records Act request, since its inception Stockton's red light cameras detected between 6,000 to 20,000 traffic violations a year. Of those, anywhere from 10 percent to 50 percent resulted in citations being sent by mail to the registered vehicle owner.

The most active cameras appeared to be on East Martin Luther King Boulevard at B Street and on Hammer Lane at Lan Ark Drive.

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- Lisa Marie

Camera's or no camera's ,People in Stockton with no morals and no care about Safety of others, Run through Stop signs and stop lights.A guy recently out South went through a house he did damage to the house, Gas lines ect . at a 4 way stop going 65 or faster in a 25 zone. Most probably drunk. Also that is Dangerous is all of these side shows. Why ???because kid's in this corrupted town have nothing to do. Polititians need to wake up. This town is a mess . Get a kid hangout ,Pizza outlet... [» more](#)

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- Stockton Albert

Going to have to be extra careful going through those intersections again like we used to. When I first moved to Stockton 13 years ago I couldn't believe how many red light runners there are here. Your light turns green and two, three, even four cars totally run the red lights. Crazy!!

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- Bill Petrone

Now I know why my letter never came!

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- Bob Price

There have been studies showing a marked increase in rear end collisions at camera monitored intersections. Drivers worried about entering the intersection on a yellow slam on their brakes and the unaware car behind cannot stop in time.

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- Bob Price

@Bob Price Oops: "Rear end" not "read end".

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