



Red light camera's at the corner of Amar Road and Grand Avenue in Walnut. The City Council voted Monday to allow the contract for the cameras to expire on May 27. Keith Birmingham — Staff photographer

By [Richard Irwin](#), San Gabriel Valley Tribune

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The only red light cameras in Walnut have hit a stop sign. The City Council voted unanimously to allow a contract with RedFlex Traffic Systems to expire on May 27.

The controversial cameras were installed in 2007 at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Amar Road, next to Mt. San Antonio College. Since then, the digital detectives have caught thousands of unwary motorists, with many complaining about the city's photo enforcement program. In fact, the city issued more than 5,000 citations in 2013, according to RedFlex reports.

There was no discussion of the consent calendar item, but later Mayor Tony Cartagena said, "the statistical review of the RedFlex camera program did not reflect a reduction of traffic accidents, nor could the data support the cameras made the intersections safer."

"A great number of residents and public officials here and in other cities no longer support them," Cartagena added.

During the public comment earlier, RedFlex Program Director Robert Warner disagreed and asked for a one-year extension.

"We are disappointed by the recommendation to the council to allow the contract to expire. We felt the staff report was generally favorable," Warner said.

"We feel the program has been very successful," the RedFlex official said. "The statistic most compelling in my mind is gleaned from the sheriff's program report. Since the program's inception, there have been zero accidents at the monitored intersection that are directly attributable to red light running. That's an incredible statistic."

Warner said the red light camera system is working. He added that the program has paid for itself.

"There's been a growing undercurrent of opposition to the red light camera, so I think ending the program is good for the city," Councilman Bob Pacheco explained later.

Walnut resident Lynn Glover presented a petition with more than 130 signatures asking for an end to the red light cameras.

"We're all of same mind about the cameras: Get rid of them," Glover told council. "One hundred percent of the people I have talked to want them gone."

He said rear-end accidents were up 67 percent and total collisions up 37 percent since the cameras were installed.

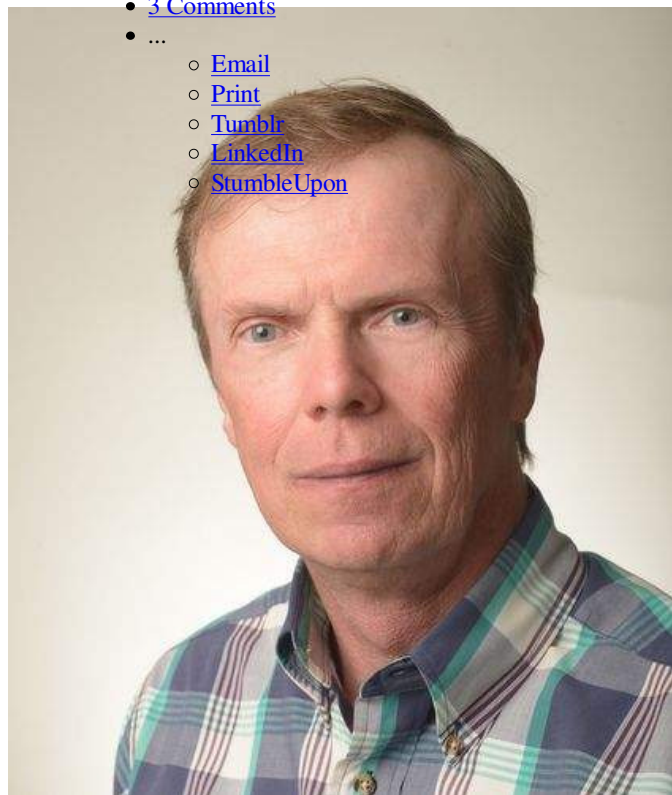
Staff reports show there were from five to 12 accidents a year at the intersection before the cameras were installed. After the program went live in January of 2007, the number of accidents ranged from 10 to 20 annually.



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Cartagena said the city's traffic safety committee will do a comprehensive review of the intersection to provide alternative ways of maintaining safety for both vehicles and pedestrians.

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