

CITY OF EL MONTE

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 9, 2008

TO: JAMES W. MUSSENDEN, CITY MANAGER
FROM: KEN WELDON, CHIEF OF POLICE
SUBJECT: REDFLEX UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

I recommend that the City terminate its contract with Redflex at the end of the contract period, November 30, 2008.

BACKGROUND

On May 20, 2003, the City entered into a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc., to provide traffic signal monitoring at the intersections of Peck/Ramona and Santa Anita/Lower Azusa. Over the next six months, Redflex camera monitoring cameras were installed at these intersections. The system became operational in November 2003. The purpose of the Redflex system is to provide monitoring and enforcement of left turn red light violations at these intersections with the ultimate goal of reducing traffic collisions.

The contract is due to expire on November 30, 2008.

DISCUSSION

At the October 7, 2008, Council Meeting, Mayor Gutierrez raised the issue of the Redflex camera system and their effectiveness in reducing the number of traffic collisions at these intersections.

A comparison of traffic collisions at Redflex monitored intersections vs. Non-Redflex monitored intersections revealed that there is no statistical difference in the number of traffic collisions because of Redflex monitoring. This comparison indicated that there has been a similar reduction in traffic collisions at other major intersections such as Valley/Durfee and Garvey/Santa Anita.

While safety for motorists was the primary consideration when contracting with Redflex, there was also a concern the cost to operate the program did not deplete our budget. Over the last year, we have issued an average of 83 Redflex citations per month between the two monitored intersections. Our net revenue taking into account invoicing by Redflex, revenues received by the court, and man-hours spent operating the system is approximately \$2,000/month.

FISCAL IMPACT

Eliminating Redflex enforcement will reduce net citation revenue by approximately \$2,000/month. However, the man-hours devoted to Redflex enforcement may be utilized for other enforcement activities.

KW/SS/ah