

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 11, 2004

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 466 (KUEHL), AN ACT TO ADD AND REPEAL SECTION 22368 OF THE VEHICLE CODE, RELATING TO VEHICLES

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council support Senate Bill 466 (Kuehl), an act to add and repeal section 22368 of the vehicle code, relating to vehicles.

BACKGROUND

In 1988, the City of Pasadena implemented "Photo Radar," a traffic system in which speed violators were captured on camera and an automated system would issue a violation to the registered owner of the vehicle captured by the technology. In 1993 staff recommended abandoning the Photo Radar program based on the realignment of traffic fines and penalties by the state of California, the labor intensive efforts to find and prosecute traffic scofflaws, the amount of prosecutorial time needed to defend the City and its position relating to issued citations, and, ultimately, the unwillingness of the local courts to honor the citations. As a result, the only revenue recognized by the City was from those who voluntarily complied. As it became more commonly known that the tickets were not enforced, the system became a less effective and costly venture, with little or no reimbursement in return.

Existing law authorizes the use of automated enforcement systems given that they meet the provisions, definitions, and requirements as defined by state law. The photo red light laws have a court-supported mechanism for insuring compliance. The red light violation cameras placed at various intersections are an example, and SB466 is modeled after those vehicle code sections, insuring court support. This bill would permit the City, through coordination with the Police Department, to operate a similar enforcement system - a mobile photo radar enforcement system - as long as it's operation includes specific activities and is used only for the purposes of enforcing certain speed laws. In addition, this bill would provide that its provisions would only remain in effect until January 1, 2008. The essence of the bill is to reinstate the photo radar concept and ensure its enforcement on a trial basis.

Staff believes that the photo radar enforcement system has value in controlling speed and in reducing both accidents and injuries. As such staff would recommend the support of the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT


There is no fiscal impact to the City resulting from supporting proposed legislation. Should the bill pass, however, a complete analysis of costs and revenues would be conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,



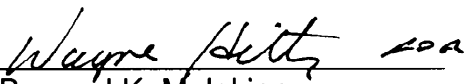
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by:



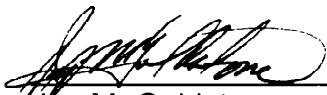
Eric R. Mills
Lieutenant, Police Department

Approved by:

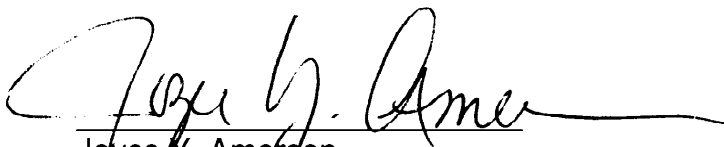


Bernard K. Melekian
Chief of Police

Concur:



Jay M. Goldstone
Director, Finance Department



Joyce Y. Amerson
Director, Transportation Department