

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 23, 2001

FROM: City Manager

SUBJECT: A public hearing on the proposed use of automated red light enforcement and authorization to enter into a contract with Nestor Traffic Systems to provide Automated Red Light Enforcement services at five intersections.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed use of automated red light enforcement in the city.
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Nestor Traffic Systems according to the deal points set forth in the background section of this report to provide Automated Red Light Enforcement services in the City. The proposed contract is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F), contracts for professional or unique services.

BACKGROUND:

One of the largest causes of serious automobile accidents is related to red light violations. In fact, red light violators are responsible for more than 800 deaths and an estimated 200,000 injuries a year nationwide. In Pasadena, red light violators account for more than 50% of all recorded automobile accidents each year. The City has implemented a number of engineering solutions to reduce the number of red light related incidents. In pursuing a greater margin of success against red light violations, the City is proposing to establish an Automated Red Light Enforcement Program. Automated Red Light Enforcement has been proven to effectively reduce red light related incidents in every agency where it has been implemented. This program is being proposed with the goal of

improving public safety through a reduction in red light violations and a reduction in accidents due to red light violations.

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 21455.5 authorizes the use of an automated enforcement system for red light violations provided that the system be identified using signs clearly indicating the system's presence at the intersection or by signs posted at all major entrances to the city. A public announcement of the automated traffic enforcement system is required to be made at least 30 days prior to commencement of the enforcement program and the city must also commence a program to issue only warning notices for 30 days prior to issuing citations through the automated enforcement system. CVC Section 21455.6 requires that the City Council conduct a public hearing on the proposed use of automated enforcement systems prior to entering into a contract for the use of those systems.

In November of 2000, staff from the Police Department Traffic Section and the Public Works and Transportation Department, Transportation Division, undertook the task of evaluating the benefits of an Automated Red Light Enforcement program in the City. On April 12, 2001, staff sent out Request for Proposals (RFP) to potential Automated Red Light Enforcement vendors. These vendors were identified through extensive research based on the most innovative technology and/or exceptional track record in providing Automated Red Light Enforcement services. On May 3, 2001, the City received four proposals for the installation and maintenance of an Automated Red Light Enforcement program at five intersections throughout the City.

Three vendors were invited during the week of June 18th to present their proposed system and operations to the City. One vendor was not invited back because their proposal did not successfully meet the selection criteria. The selection criteria as described in the RFP, was based on five categories: firm's abilities and references, program management, innovative technology, cost program and training and support program. Using these criteria, and oral interviews, staff selected Nestor Traffic Systems as the best vendor to provide an Automated Red Light Enforcement program in the City.

Nestor Traffic Systems Automated Red Light Enforcement program consists of several video cameras that are capable of digitally recording red light violators as they violate the red indication, encrypt and package these recordings in a video format ready for display.

In order to design an Automated Red Light Enforcement program, a list of intersections was developed. Based on factors such as recorded incidents, high traffic volume through the intersection and roadway classification, staff identified potential intersections. These intersections are:

- Marengo Avenue and Corson Street
- Lake Avenue and Union Street

- Orange Grove Avenue and Fair Oaks Avenue
- California Boulevard and Fair Oaks Avenue
- Lake Avenue and Washington Boulevard
- Fair Oaks Avenue and Washington Boulevard
- Lake Avenue and Mountain Street
- Washington Boulevard and Los Robles Avenue
- Fair Oaks Avenue and Del Mar Boulevard
- Foothill Boulevard and Sierra Madre Villa
- Lake Avenue and California Boulevard

Due to variable traffic conditions, the intersections that are ultimately selected to receive the automated red light enforcement devices may vary from this list.

The selected intersections show a history of carrying large traffic volumes and a consistent pattern of red light violations. As part of the program management, Nestor Traffic Systems will screen, process and send all citations electronically to the Police Department. Upon approval of the Police Department, the citations will then be sent to the courts. The courts will be equipped with devices capable of displaying digitally recorded videos to be used if needed for case presentation.

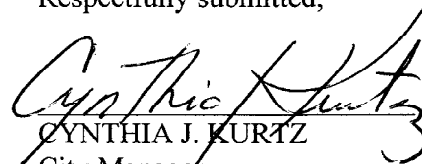
Nestor Traffic Systems is proposing a program that would allocate a portion of paid red light violation fees to Nestor Traffic Systems to install, maintain and administer the proposed automated red light enforcement program. Staff proposes to enter into a contract with Nestor that would provide these services, to the City at no net cost to the City and under the City's standard contract terms and conditions. Staff is currently negotiating with Nestor and, if an agreement cannot be reached with Nestor on a no net cost basis, we will return to City Council for further direction or authorization.

The deployment of the proposed Automated Red Light Enforcement Program may require additional staffing in the Police Department and possibly in the City Prosecutor's office. In that event staff will return to Council with an appropriate budgetary request including a funding plan.

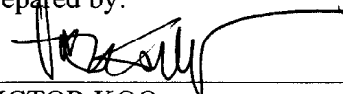
FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff proposes to enter into a contract with Nestor Traffic Systems that would provide these services to the City at no net cost to the City. Staff is currently negotiating with Nestor Traffic Systems and, if agreement cannot be reached with Nestor Traffic Systems on a no net cost basis, we will return to City Council for further direction or authorization. The deployment of the proposed Automated Red Light Enforcement Program may require additional staffing in the Police Department and possibly in the City Prosecutor's office. In that event staff will return to Council with a budget request along with a plan to fund the positions.


Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

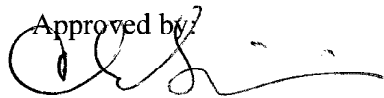
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