

CITY OF FULLERTON

Police Department

Patrick E. McKinley Chief of Police

December 8, 2005

Ms. Bette Glick, Foreperson
Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: Follow Up on Response to Grand Jury Report: Red Light Cameras:
Automated Traffic Cops in Orange County

Dear Ms. Glick:

In response to your letter dated October 11, 2005, we are providing clarification to Recommendations 7.1 and 7.2 from the Orange County Grand Jury's report, "Red Light Cameras: Automated Traffic Cops in Orange County." The following paragraphs contain our responses to these recommendations:

Recommendation 7.1

Recommendation No. 7.1 reads, "Camera revenues and unpaid citations: The five cities in Orange County using RLCs should seek, independently or jointly, to resolve accounting/reporting issues so they can accurately determine the net operating effects of their RLCs and recover any lost revenues. (See Findings 6.1 and 6.2)"

In September, 2005, members of the Fullerton Police Department Traffic Bureau attended a meeting with members of the Orange County Superior Court Clerk's office as well as members of the four other cities from the county that are currently operating automated red light camera systems. After discussing the fiscal reporting needs of the agencies, as requested by the Orange County Grand Jury, consensus was obtained from the police agencies as to a possible solution to the reporting needs. This solution would require the Orange County Superior Court to produce a specific report that identifies and captures revenue from both the Motor Vehicle Fund and the City Red Light Fund from the Unified Orange County Superior Court – Fines, Fees & Forfeitures report. This specific report capturing automated red light camera citation information is currently not being produced by the Court. In an attempt to request that the Orange County Superior Court produce the report, all five agencies have reviewed and approved an initial draft request. Once signed by all five agencies, the letter will be delivered to the Orange County Superior Court for their consideration. If approved by the Orange County Superior Court, the information provided to each agency within the report would allow each agency to specifically monitor automated red light camera revenues.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented because it still requires receipt, further analysis as well as approval from the Orange County Superior Court. We are estimating that it would take approximately six to twelve months to implement this program, if approved by the Orange County Superior Court.

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Recommendation 7.2

Recommendation No. 7.2 reads, "*Police officers*: The five cities in Orange County using RLCs should explore the possibility of training and using non-sworn law enforcement personnel for the task of determining which RLC citations to issue to reduce costs and return sworn officers to more critical assignments. (See Finding 6.3.)"

The Fullerton Police Department recently instituted a program that utilized volunteers from the Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to conduct automated red light video reviews. These video reviews were being shown to defendants who have received automated red light citations and had requested a viewing appointment to review their specific red light video prior to their court appearance date. The reviews are scheduled by appointment only, two days per week at 15 minute intervals. Recently, we have been averaging approximately 10 to 20 reviews per week which equates to a total weekly video viewing time of two to five hours.

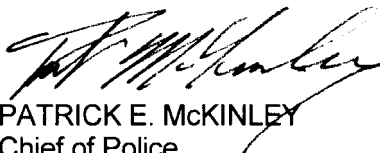
Additionally, the Fullerton City Attorney has advised the police department that we may also use these same RSVP volunteers, as well as other non-sworn personnel, to conduct the initial RLC video reviews of potential red light violators to determine if a RLC citation is warranted.

After evaluating the performance of the RSVP personnel during their contacts with the citizens receiving their RLC reviews, it is apparent that they have demonstrated the proper knowledge and understanding of the specific violations and are proficient with their critical judgments. We have now determined that we are ready to begin our next phase of operation where our RSVP volunteers, while being closely monitored by Traffic Bureau supervision, will begin to monitor the initial red light camera events to determine if prosecution should be recommended. This recommendation is currently in the process of being fully implemented.

As requested in the original Grand Jury report, we will report back in March of 2006 on the progress of all Recommendations and Findings.

I hope I have adequately addressed the issues raised in the Grand Jury report. If you require any additional information please contact Captain Geoff Spalding at (714) 738-6841 or gspalding@fullertonpd.org. He will gladly assist you.

With best regards,



PATRICK E. MCKINLEY
Chief of Police

PM:GS:dja

cc: City Manager
City Council
Chief Pat McKinley
Capt. Geoff Spalding