

AGENDA

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 12, 2011
9:30 A.M.

**Laguna Woods City Hall
Council Chambers
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637**

AGENDA DESCRIPTION: The agenda descriptions are intended to give notice, to members of the public, of a general summary of items of business to be transacted or discussed. Any person wishing to address the Public Safety Committee on any matter, whether or not it appears on this agenda, may do so under the appropriate section of the agenda. Whenever possible, lengthy testimony should be presented to the Committee in writing (12 copies) and only pertinent points presented orally. Requests to speak to items on the agenda shall be heard at the appropriate point on the agenda; requests to speak about subjects not on the agenda will be heard during the Public Comment section of the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Vice Chair Appointment

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Appoint a Vice Chair to conduct meetings in the absence of the Chair.

B. Red Light Photo Enforcement Program

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Recommend that the City Council approve an amendment to the agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc., effective upon execution, to lower the monthly fee to \$3,000 per approach beginning on January 1, 2012; clarify the circumstances for which credits are due to the City as a result of camera downtime; add a 45-day "no cause" termination clause beginning on July 1, 2012; and, extend the term

for 18 months through June 30, 2013 with one additional, optional 12 month extension.

IV. PENDING PROJECTS UPDATES

A. Santa Maria Avenue Construction

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

A. Animal Services

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURN

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be at 9:30 a.m. on November 9, 2011, at Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. Meetings may be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
Meeting Recap

September 14, 2011
9:30 A.M.

Laguna Woods City Hall
Council Chambers
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Feeney, Horne, Henderson, Pollard, Rook, Stone, Templeton,
Wilson

Absent: Leuck, Rosenblatt

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. "No Right Turn on Red" Signs

Assistant City Manager Reilly introduced Jerry Stock from the City's traffic engineering firm, Hartzog & Crabill. Mr. Stock reviewed their report recommending "no right turn on red" restrictions at the Avenida Sevilla southbound approach to El Toro Road (Village Gate 5), Village Gate 16 eastbound approach to Moulton Parkway, and the Calle Sonora northbound approach to El Toro Road (Village Gate 14).

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council restrict right turns on red using metal signs at the Avenida Sevilla southbound approach to El Toro Road (Village Gate 5) and Village Gate 16 eastbound approach to Moulton Parkway.

The Committee declined to recommend restricting right turns on red at the Calle Sonora northbound approach to El Toro Road (Village Gate 14) because they felt that there is sufficient line of sight.

B. San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

Christopher Abel, Community Outreach Manager for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), discussed SONGS' safety and emergency preparedness efforts and responded to questions from the Committee. This item was received and filed.

IV. PENDING PROJECT UPDATES

Assistant City Manager Reilly provided an update on the following project:

A. Santa Maria Avenue Construction

V. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Member Templeton provided an update on the following subcommittee:

A. Animal Services


VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURN

The next regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be at 9:30 a.m. on October 12, 2011, at Laguna Woods City Hall, 24264 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637. All regular meetings are subject to cancellation due to a lack of agenda items.

**City of Laguna Woods
Agenda Report**

FOR: October 12, 2011 Public Safety Committee Meeting
TO: Chair and Members of the Public Safety Committee
FROM: Christopher Macon, Director of Public Safety 
AGENDA ITEM: Red Light Photo Enforcement Program

Recommendation

Recommend that the City Council approve an amendment to the agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc., effective upon execution, to lower the monthly fee to \$3,000 per approach beginning on January 1, 2012; clarify the circumstances for which credits are due to the City as a result of camera downtime; add a 45-day “no cause” termination clause beginning on July 1, 2012; and, extend the term for 18 months through June 30, 2013 with one additional, optional 12 month extension.

Background

In 2005, the City Council approved an agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. for red light photo enforcement at the intersections of El Toro Road/Moulton Parkway and Laguna Woods Village Gate 12/Moulton Parkway. Amendments to the agreement, including term extensions, were approved in January 2010 and June 2011. The agreement will end on December 31, 2011 without City Council action.

Discussion

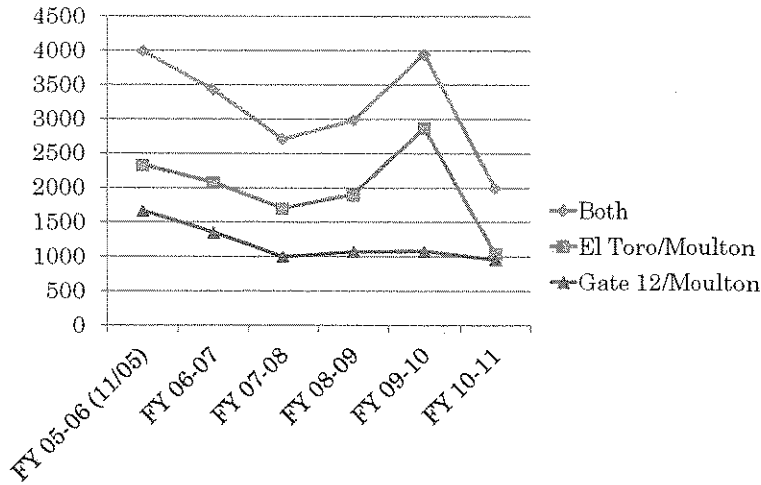
Citations Issued

The red light photo enforcement program has averaged 3,180 citations each fiscal year since the first citation was issued in November 2005, ranging from a low of 2,001 in Fiscal Year 2010-11 to a high of 3,997 in Fiscal Year 2005-06. Of those, approximately 63% are issued for the El Toro Road/Moulton Parkway intersection and 37% are issued for the Gate 12/Moulton Parkway intersection.

In the first year of the program, nearly 4,000 citations were issued, after which the total number of citations at both intersections gradually declined before reaching a

low of 2,711 in Fiscal Year 2007-08. Citations then rose to match the first year's total of just under 4,000 in Fiscal Year 2009-10. In the most recent fiscal year, the total number of citations was dramatically reduced as a result of significant camera downtime caused by the Moulton Smart Street construction.

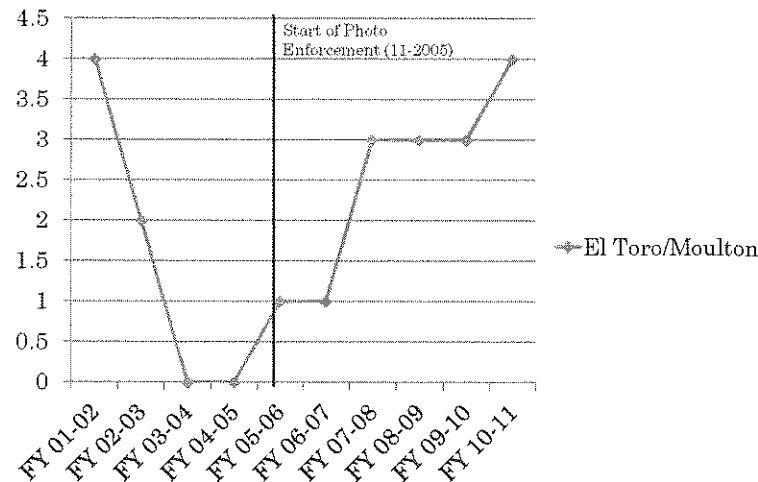
Graph 1: Citations Issued

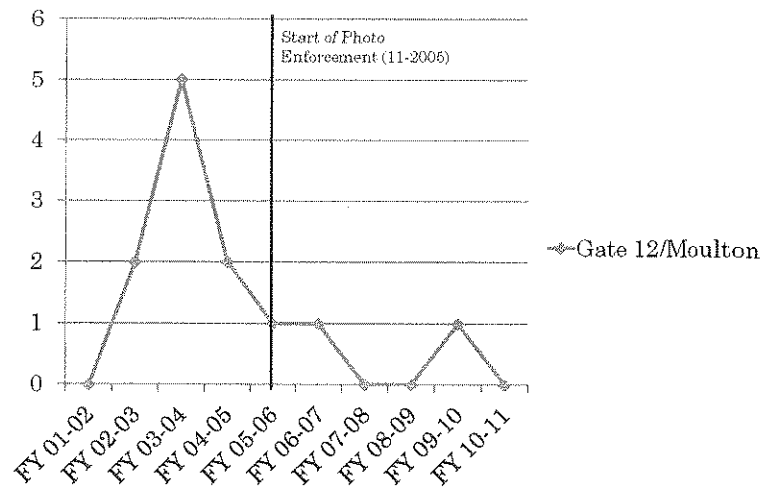


Collisions

In the past 10 fiscal years, the number of collisions related to signal violations at the two photo enforced intersections has fluctuated slightly but not changed in any significant manner. This relative constant may be attributable to a deterrence factor caused by the photo enforcement system. The El Toro Road/Moulton Parkway intersection averages 2.1 signal violation-related collisions per year, with a high of four collisions per year. The Gate 12/Moulton Parkway intersection averages 1.2 signal violation-related collisions per year, with a high of five collisions per year.

Graph 2: El Toro/Moulton Collisions



Graph 3: Gate 12/Moulton CollisionsOther Information

- **Fine Amount:** The current fine is \$480 per citation, not including the cost of traffic school, if applicable. Of the total amount, the City receives \$171.71 or approximately 36%. The remainder is paid to the state, county, and court.
- **Repeat Citations:** As of June 2011, 86 individuals have received more than one citation through the red light photo enforcement program. Of those, the number of citations issued to any one person ranges from two to seven.
- **Contested Citations:** Last fiscal year, 274 citations were contested in court, requiring the presence of the City's traffic deputy and special legal counsel. Staff time was also required to respond to public records/discovery requests.
- **Rear End Collisions:** There has been no increase in the number of rear end collisions at either intersection.
- **Alternative Enforcement Methods:** No comparable level of enforcement can be provided by Sheriff's Department personnel due to the size and structure of the intersections. A motorcycle deputy could provide a limited amount of enforcement; however photo enforcement remains the most effective method of enforcing red light violations at both intersections.

If the program ends, the City's traffic deputy would spend the time that she currently spends on the red light photo enforcement program (approximately 20 hours per week) in the field providing front-line traffic enforcement. City staff that provides program support would be assigned to other projects.

The City Council could take several actions concerning the future of the red light photo enforcement program, including:

1. Allowing the current agreement to end on December 31, 2011; or
2. Extending the agreement for an additional term under new conditions

Staff is recommending that the City Council approve an amendment to the existing agreement that would reduce the cost of the program and extend the term for 18 months with the option of one additional 12 month extension. The City would gain the ability to terminate without cause, with as little as 45-days notice, beginning six months into the new term, at the start of the upcoming fiscal year. The amendment would also clarify when the City receives credits for camera downtime.

Staff explored the possibility of amending the agreement to include only one of the two intersections and found that doing so is not feasible. Due to their own costs associated with the program, Redflex is unable to consider such an amendment.

Fiscal Impact

The City's existing agreement with Redflex includes a monthly fee of \$4,000 for each of the five red light photo enforced approaches (\$20,000 per month). Redflex is proposing to lower the monthly fee to \$3,000 per approach (a savings of \$5,000 per month or \$60,000 per year), which includes the capture and processing of all red light violations, including right turn violations, within range of the cameras.

Table 1: Monthly Fees

Intersection	Number of Approaches	Current Monthly Cost per Intersection	Proposed Monthly Cost per Intersection
El Toro/Moulton	3	\$12,000	\$9,000
Gate 12/Moulton	2	\$8,000	\$6,000
Total	5	\$20,000	\$15,000

The red light photo enforcement program is a time intensive operation that requires a dedicated traffic deputy to issue citations and appear in court. Unlike the majority of cities in California, an attorney is also required to appear on behalf of the City. Repeated legal challenges have increased the cost of legal services in recent years and are expected to continue. City staff time is required to manage the agreement with Redflex and respond to public records/discovery requests.

Expenditures related to the red light photo enforcement program have historically been offset by California Vehicle Code Fines resultant of the red light citations and State Supplemental Law Enforcement Services Funding (SLESF). Based on first quarter revenue, staff anticipates a 7% reduction in California Vehicle Code Fine revenue as compared to the amount budgeted at the beginning of the fiscal year. SLESF funding was not included in the State budget at the time of the City's own budget adoption; however legislative developments have resulted in the resumption of normal funding, which amounts to \$100,000 per year.

Under the proposed recommendation, the City's expenditures would be reduced by \$30,000 for the second half of the current fiscal year and \$60,000 for subsequent fiscal years beginning in Fiscal Year 2011-12. As a result, the photo enforcement program would transition from breaking even to generating revenues approximately equal to the reductions in monthly fees. This would lessen the potential impact of unanticipated legal expenses and reductions in State funding.

Conclusion

The red light photo enforcement program allows the City to provide a level of traffic enforcement at the El Toro Road/Moulton Parkway and Gate 12/Moulton Parkway intersections that would otherwise not be possible. The proposed amendment to the agreement with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. would reduce the cost of the program and provide the City Council with the ability to terminate the agreement in the future without financial penalty.