



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE
CALIFORNIA**

**MICHAEL S. CARONA
SHERIFF-CORONER**

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August 15, 2005

The Honorable Frederick Horn
Presiding Judge
Orange County Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Subject: Response to the Orange County Grand Jury Report "2004-2005
Red Light Cameras: Automated Traffic Cops in Orange County"
May 25, 2005

Dear Judge Horn:

Per your request and in accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, you will find my response to the FY 04-05 Grand Jury Report enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Sheriff Pete Gannon at (714) 647-1801.

Respectfully,

Michael S. Carona
Sheriff-Coroner

CC: Bette A. Flick, Grand Jury Foreperson ✓
Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer

PROUDLY SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ORANGE COUNTY AND THE FOLLOWING CITIES AND AGENCIES:

ALISO VIEJO • DANA POINT • LAGUNA HILLS • LAGUNA NIGUEL • LAGUNA WOODS • LAKE FOREST • MISSION VIEJO
RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA • SAN CLEMENTE • SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO • STANTON • VILLA PARK
HARBORS, BEACHES & PARKS • JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT • OCTA • SUPERIOR COURT



*Response to "Orange County Grand
Jury Report 2004-2005 Red Light
Cameras: Automated Traffic Cops in
Orange County
May 25, 2005"*



Sheriff-Coroner Michael Carona

ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Pete Gannon, Assistant Sheriff

Chief of Operations

Santa Ana, California

July 2005

FINDINGS

Under California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, responses are required for each of the findings. The 2004-2005 Orange County Grand Jury arrived at the following findings regarding their investigation into Red Light Cameras. Beneath each of the stated findings is the Sheriff-Coroner's response:

Police Officers

1. Currently, only sworn police officers in each city determine which RLC (Red Light Camera) citations to issue.

- The Sheriff-Coroner agrees with the Grand Jury finding.

2. This may take officers away from more critical assignments.

- The Sheriff-Coroner disagrees with the Grand Jury finding as it pertains to the City of San Juan Capistrano.
- The Sheriff's Department in the City of San Juan Capistrano utilizes an Administrative Deputy to perform all duties associated with Red Light Cameras.
- The Administrative Deputy does not normally respond to calls for service or emergencies, but is tasked with administrative duties at the City of San Juan Capistrano Police Services office.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In accordance with California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, each recommendation requires a response from the government entity to which it is addressed. Based on the findings, the 2004-2005 Orange County Grand Jury developed the following recommendations. Beneath each recommendation is the Sheriff-Coroner's response:

Police Officers

1. The five cities in Orange County using RLC's (Red Light Cameras) 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)

- As recommended, the Sheriff's Department has explored 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 tasks, as it pertains to the City of San Juan Capistrano.
- The training and use of non-sworn law enforcement personnel for RLC duties would not be beneficial at this time. Current RLC duties for the four (4) approaches in the City of San Juan Capistrano only account for approximately 50% of the Administrative Deputy's time. The current contract with the City of San Juan Capistrano does not include any non-sworn law enforcement personnel at this time that could be used for this purpose. San Juan Capistrano Police Services currently has no support, clerical or secretarial staff aside from a Lieutenant assigned as the Chief of Police Services and the Administrative Deputy. All other staff members are already committed to field operations.
- The Sheriff's Department will continue to explore the feasibility of using non-sworn personnel for RLC duties as more Sheriff's contract cities employ their use. The Sheriff's Department has a history of regionalizing services that can be shared by several of our contract law enforcement partners and currently utilizes non-sworn personnel for regional traffic duties where sworn personnel are not required. The Sheriff's Department recognizes the benefit of the utilization of non-sworn personnel, when appropriate, and will continue to look for opportunities to do so in the future.