

CITY OF FULLERTON

Police Department

Patrick E. McKinley Chief of Police

June 22, 2005

The Honorable Frederick P. Horn
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

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

Dear Judge Horn:

I have reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury's report, "Red Light Cameras: Automated Traffic Cops in Orange County." In a letter from Mr. B. Lewis Avera, Jr., dated May 25, 2005, the City of Fullerton was identified as one of the respondents to findings and recommendations extracted from that report. The following paragraphs contain our responses to cited findings and recommendations:

Finding No. 6.3

Finding No. 6.3 reads, "Police officers: Currently, only sworn police officers in each city determine which RLC citations to issue. This may take officers away from more critical assignments."

The Fullerton Police Department is currently utilizing a volunteer from the Department's Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to conduct automated red light video reviews. These video reviews are being shown to defendants who have received automated red light citations and have requested a viewing appointment to review their specific red light video prior to their court appearance date. These reviews are scheduled by appointment only, two days per week at 15 minute intervals. Recently, we have been averaging approximately 15 to 20 reviews per week which multiplies out to a total weekly video viewing time of 4-5 hours.

Additionally, the police department was just advised by our City Attorney that we can now 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. No decision on this potential change has been reached; however, Traffic Officers would still be responsible for testifying in court on any RLC citation issued.

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Recommendation No. 7.2

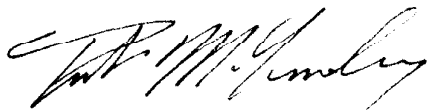
Recommendation No. 7.2 reads, "Police officers: The five cities in Orange County using RLCs should explore the possibility of training and using non-sworn law enforcement personnel for the task of determining which RLC citations to issue to reduce costs and return sworn officers to more critical assignments."

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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

PEM:cn

cc: City Manager
City Council