



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson
Councilmember At-Large

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March 12, 2007

Cathy L. Lanier, Acting Chief
Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Ave., NW Room 5080
Washington DC 20001

RE: Photo Enforcement Program

Dear Chief Lanier:

Today I met with representatives of American Traffic Solutions (ATS) which recently acquired the contract to maintain and operate the District government's photo enforcement program. The contract with ATS is monitored by the Metropolitan Police Department.

I am greatly disturbed by several facts related to the operation and maintenance of the District's photo enforcement program. According to ATS: two of the 10 stationary radar units have been out of certification for over eight months (exposing the District to evidentiary liability); at least 11 sites have been out of service for at least six months; and one of the cameras (purchased by the District) has an asset tag indicating "Property of Fairfax County." Each of these problems, if true, indicate that MPD has done a poor job of monitoring the contract.

In addition, ATS alleges that: of the 50 red light cameras, 27 are currently inoperable or significantly impaired; cameras reported as operational are simply missing; a number of cameras sites have been stripped of equipment and exposed live electrical wires were left at the site; many sites have inoperable primary or auxiliary flash units needed for proper illumination rendering them ineffective at night or during bad weather; and many sites have been out of service for at least a month. Each of these problems, if true, indicate at the least that MPD should seek restitution from the previous contractor - but these problems also suggest inadequate monitoring by MPD of the contract.

Finally, ATS alleges that "Upon move out from the V Street facility, ACS physically severed all of the network cabling within the District's facility... This resulted in the need for a complete rewiring of the facility and thousands of dollars of additional cost to the District." Further, "ACS made repeated attempts to repossess District owned equipment during hand over to ATS. District Police had to threaten to arrest ACS staff on several occasions to stop these attempts."

I would like to know what has been happening with this contract. To what extent are these allegations true? How is it, if the allegations are true, that MPD has been so poor in monitoring the contract? What steps are in place to ensure fully adequate monitoring from now on? What steps has MPD initiated to obtain restitution? Please let me know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson".

Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary



Memo

To: Councilmember Mendelson
From: Adam Tuton
Date: March 11, 2007
Re: ACS Stewardship of the DC Photo Enforcement Program

As a result of our transitional activities, we have uncovered a large number of disturbing facts related to the operation and maintenance of the District's cameras and program by ACS.

1. Of the 50 red light cameras, 27 are currently inoperable or significantly impaired. (Table 1)
2. One of the cameras (purchased by the District) has an asset tag indicating "Property of Fairfax County" (see Photo 1)
3. Two of the 10 Stationary Radar units have been out of certification for over 8 months, exposing the District to evidentiary liability on tens of thousands of speed violation notices for millions of dollars.
4. Cameras reported as operational are simply missing. (See Photo 2)
5. A number of camera sites have been stripped of equipment and exposed live electrical wires were left at the site. (See Photo 3 and 4)
6. Many sites have inoperable primary or auxiliary flash units needed for proper illumination rendering them ineffective at night or during bad weather.
7. At least 11 sites have been out of service for at least six months.
8. Many more sites have been out of service for at least a month.
9. It is apparent that ACS' maintenance of the District's equipment was stopped or severely curtailed for some time.
10. Upon move out from the V Street facility, ACS physically severed all of the network cabling within the District's facility (see photo #8). This resulted in the need for a complete rewiring of the facility and thousands of dollars of additional cost to the District.
11. ACS continues to try to obtain acceptance of inoperable cameras.
12. ACS made repeated attempts to repossess District owned equipment during hand over to ATS. District Police had to threaten to arrest ACS staff on several occasions to stop these attempts.

TABLE 1: STATUS OF DC RED LIGHT AND STATIONARY SPEED CAMERA LOCATIONS

Location	Redlight Location Address	Comments	Problem Description	Take Over Date
12	FILM (30 Sites) 14th St. S/B @ U St. NW			2/28/2007
23	NY Ave. W/B @ 4th St. NW		Unauthorized pole not working	2/28/2007
34	E. Capital St. W/B @ Berrington Rd. NE	Out of Service	No aux flash pole	2/26/2007
43	E. Capital St. E/B @ Texas Ave. SE			2/26/2007
51	Pennsylvania Ave. W/B @ Minnesota Ave. SE			2/27/2007
64	NY Ave. W/B @ Bladensburg Rd. NE			3/1/2007
73	NY Ave. E/B @ Bladensburg Rd. NE	Out of Service	RLC pole mooker	2/28/2007
81	Bladensburg Rd. N/B @ NY Ave. NE			2/12/2007
101	N. Capital St. W/B @ Harwood NE	Out of Service	No RLC pole, keep cuts in lanes 1 or 2.	3/1/2007
121	N. Capital St. S/B @ Gallatin NW			3/1/2007
121	N. Capital St. NE @ Missouri Ave.	Out of Service	Camera equip failure.	3/1/2007
134	K St. W/B @ 25th St. NW	Out of Service	No aux flash pole, cabinet. Lane 1 keeps inoperable	3/1/2007
143	S. Dakota Ave. E/B @ Bladensburg Rd. NE	Out of Service	No power to RLC pole.	2/28/2007
153	ML Oliver Rd. E/B @ W. Virginia Ave. NE			2/27/2007
162	S. Capital St. ramp S/B before I St. SW			2/27/2007
171	16th St. N/B @ Oak St. NW	Out of Service	No power to RLC pole.	2/28/2007
182	16th St. S/B @ Colorado Ave. NW	Out of Service	Aux flash trip.	2/27/2007
192	GA Ave. S/B @ Missouri Ave. NW			3/1/2007
201	Sutland Pkwy. W/B @ Stanton Rd. SE			2/27/2007
212	Sutland Pkwy. E/B @ Fath Sterling SE	Out of Service	No aux flash pole. No power to RLC pole.	2/27/2007
222	16th St. S/B @ Irving St. NW	Out of Service	Aux flash inop. Loop damage.	2/28/2007
231	12th St. N/B @ Constitution Ave. NW	Out of Service	RLC pole lower limit switch inop. Film transporting issue w/ camera equip.	2/27/2007
244	E. Capital St. W/B @ Southern Ave. NE	Out of Service	Lane 2 trailing loop inop.	2/28/2007
264	NY Ave. W/B @ Florida Ave. NE			2/28/2007
274	Constitution Ave. W/B @ 16th St. NW			2/27/2007
283	K St. E/B @ 27th St. NW	Out of Service	No flash cabinet. No power to RLC pole.	3/1/2007
293	Independence Ave. E/B @ Washington SW			2/27/2007
303	Independence Ave. E/B @ 3rd St. SW			2/28/2007
312	Connecticut Ave. S/B @ Nebraska Ave. NW	Out of Service	No aux flash pole, aux flash or flash cabinet. No power to RLC pole.	3/1/2007
321	14th St. N/B @ C St. SW			2/27/2007
331	Berrington Rd. N/B @ Minnesota Ave. NE	Out of Service	No power to RLC pole.	2/28/2007
344	Rhode Island Ave. W/B @ 1st St. NW	Out of Service	No power to RLC pole.	2/28/2007
354	Rhode Island Ave. W/B @ Reed NE	Out of Service	City re-constructed. Loops cut.	2/28/2007
364	NY Ave. W/B @ New Jersey Ave. NW	Out of Service	No aux flash pole, aux flash or flash cabinet.	2/28/2007
371	Branch Ave. N/B @ Alabama Ave. SE	Out of Service	Dual aux flash inop.	2/28/2007
381	Connecticut Ave. N/B @ Military Rd. NW	Out of Service	No power to RLC pole.	3/1/2007
394	Canal St. W/B @ Whitehurst Pkwy. NW			3/1/2007
421	Wisconsin Ave. N/B @ Brandywine NW	Out of Service	Property of Fairfax County sticker on RLC unit. No internal camera equipment, aux flash field together with plastic bag, loops in lane 1, 2 inactive	3/1/2007
443	Pennsylvania Ave. E/B @ Southern Ave. SE DIGITAL (11 Sites: 7 GTCD, 4 Multicam)	Out of Service	Aux flash inoperable	2/28/2007
451	Connecticut Ave. N/B @ Carter St. NW (GTCD)			2/12/2007
464	Military Rd. W/B @ 14th St. NW (GTCD)			2/22/2007
474	NY Ave. W/B @ Montana Ave. NE (lanes 1&2) (GTCD)			2/22/2007
482	NY Ave. S/WB @ N. Capital St. NE (Multicam)			2/22/2007
492	Pennsylvania Ave. SE/B @ 27th St. SE (Multicam)			2/22/2007
502	Florida Ave. SE/B @ N. Capital St. NW (Multicam)			Issues
512	Florida Ave. SE/B @ NY Ave. NE (GTCD)			Issues
521	Florida Ave. NW/B @ NY Ave. NE (Multicam)			Issues
531	Nebraska Ave. NE/B @ Fessenden NW (GTCD)			2/22/2007
542	N. Capital St. S/B @ H St. NW (GTCD)			2/22/2007
574	NY Ave. W/B @ Montana Ave. NE (lane 3) (GTCD)			2/22/2007

Total Accepted 23
 Total Not Accepted or Inoperable 27
 Total 50