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| Committee: Public Safety | Meeting Date: July 9, 2009 | | |
| Agenda Item Title: Red Light Enforcement Program | Account(s): | Budget: | Expense Request: |
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| | | | |
| Item Budgeted: YES NO | TOTAL: | | |
| Presenter: Chief Brian Howerton | Request is over/under budget by: | | |
| | Over | Under | \$ () N/A |
| Lead Department: Police | If amount requested is over budget, a detailed explanation of what account(s) the overage will be charged to will be provided in the Executive Summary or attached detail. | | |
| Executive Summary: | | | |
| <p>The Village deployed a red light camera enforcement system at the intersection of Meacham and Woodfield Roads in November of 2008. During ongoing evaluation of the program, it was determined that an engineered change may assist in reducing right turn on red violations rather than by enforcement. During the time the intersection was re-engineered, the right turn camera was disabled. Since disabling the camera, violations have fallen to a level that does not justify the use of this type of approach to modify driver behavior.</p> <p>The direction given by the Village Board is that use of red light camera enforcement will be done only at intersections where signal violations are a significant contributing factor to traffic crashes in order to increase public safety. Based on an analysis of data, no intersection in the Village, even among the Top Ten crash intersections by number of crashes, fulfills this criterion.</p> | | | |
| Recommended Action: | | | |
| <p>The Village Manager recommends that the Public Safety Committee recommend to the Village Board that the contract with RedSpeed be terminated with a letter terminating the contract being sent out by the Village Manager on July 1 effective July 14, 2009 subject to ratification of the Village Board and any efforts to obtain permits for any other location be discontinued, until and unless we can determine a need within the directive of the Village Board.</p> | | | |

MEMORANDUM
OCP #09-019

Date: June 24, 2009

To: Village Manager

From: Chief Brian Howerton

Subject: Red Light Camera Enforcement Program

For: Public Safety Committee

Introduction

In November of 2008, the Village contracted with RedSpeed Illinois to deploy a red light camera enforcement system at two approaches of the intersection of Meacham and Woodfield Roads. As the Police Department began to receive violations for final approval, we discovered a higher than expected number of right-turn-on-red violators. It was decided that an engineering solution should be employed to reduce violations instead of continuing enforcement. Left turn and straight through violations have remained consistent, but are far fewer in number, and analysis indicates that there has been no significant change in signal-related crashes between pre and post system deployment.

Discussion

This location was chosen in large part due to its unique characteristic as the only major intersection over which the Village has exclusive jurisdiction. This allowed us to proceed with deployment much faster than other intersections that involve State or County roadways and require either or both entities' approval. It was also believed that receiving actual violation data rather than depending on vendor surveys would allow the village to make better decisions about future deployment at other targeted intersections.

Due to the configuration of the intersection, there are two sets of cameras for each targeted approach covering southbound Meacham Road and westbound Woodfield Road, for a total of four cameras. The configuration of the camera heads results in one unit monitoring only left turn violations, while the remaining unit monitors both straight through and right turn violations. According to the vendor, it isn't possible to separate and forward only the desired infractions from this camera other than by examining each captured violation, so when the decision was made to stop issuing right turn tickets, RedSpeed continued to sort the small percentage of through violations from the thousands of combined violations that were captured and forward them to us for final approval.

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In the May monthly report from RedSpeed, we received no straight through violations for either approach, and were told that because it was so labor intensive to go through all violations compared to the number sent to us for final approval, they did not feel the time spent by their personnel was justified. Consequently, the only citations issued during the entire month were for left turn violations (14).

In 2008, there were 26 crashes at this intersection. There were no signal violations noted. Almost all of the tickets were written for the charge of “Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident”, which is usually interchangeable with “Following too Closely”.

For 2009 YTD, there have been 12 crashes. In the only signal violation, on Feb 17, the victim vehicle was southbound on Meacham Rd. in the left turn lane for eastbound Woodfield Rd., and the at-fault vehicle went through the red light for northbound Meacham. In two others, the victim and offender vehicles were both westbound Woodfield Rd. in the right turn lane for northbound Meacham Rd, however these incidents were attributed to following too closely, not caused by a signal violation, but occurring in the turn lane nonetheless.

The Village Board has directed that this program be implemented only at intersections where data shows a significant number of crashes resulting from signal violations. As shown below, none of the Top Ten crash intersections within the Village can fulfill this criterion.

We reviewed approximately 800 crashes during the entire calendar year of 2008, there were only 15 signal-related crashes recorded for all ten intersections

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------|---|
| #1 | Golf & Roselle | 2 |
| #2 | Golf & Meacham | 2 |
| #3 | Schaumburg & Roselle | 3 |
| #4 | Higgins & Meacham | 2 |
| #5 | Meacham & Algonquin | 1 |
| #6 | Higgins & Martingale | 0 |
| #7 | Golf & Higgins | 2 |
| #8 | Woodfield & W. Frontage | 3 |
| #9 | Higgins & W. Frontage | 0 |
| #10 | Schaumburg & Barrington | 0 |

TOTAL 15

The contract with RedSpeed is set to renew on July 14, 2009 unless it is terminated. There is a 10 day written notice requirement to terminate the contract. With the tight time constraints, staff recommends that the Village Manger send the letter of termination on July 1, 2009 so that it would be effective July 14, 2009.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Public Safety Committee recommend to the Village Board that the contract with RedSpeed be terminated with a letter terminating the contract being sent out by the Village Manager on July 1 effective July 14, 2009 subject to ratification of the Village Board and any efforts to obtain permits for any other location be discontinued, until and unless we can determine a need within the directive of the Village Board.

Brian S. Howerton
Chief of Police

Meacham and
Woodfield Map

Top 10 Crash
Intersections