



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**CONFERENCE MEETING**

**#22-1079**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** November 15, 2022

**TITLE:** Discussion of Red Light Camera Program - **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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In July of 2010, the City of Fort Lauderdale implemented a Red-Light Camera (RLC) program with American Traffic Solutions (ATS) to capture red light violators in six intersections. By March of 2014, the program expanded to 32 intersections. The Red-Light Camera Unit was housed at police headquarters and was staffed with five public safety aides and one sergeant. The unit reviewed thousands of videos each month and spent several days a week testifying at the county courthouse in Deerfield Beach. The program was discontinued on March 5, 2015 after a court order in the case of City of Fort Lauderdale vs. Welsh suspended the City's Red-Light Camera Program. The employees assigned to the unit have since been reassigned and the office space repurposed.

The effectiveness of the cameras in preventing accidents was found to be inconsistent depending on the type and location of accidents relative to the intersection. On February 7, 2014, a study of red-light cameras by the Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA) found statewide "crashes resulting in a disregarded traffic signal citation decreased by 19% and those resulting in fatalities decreased by 49%. However, angle crashes (crashes most associated with red-light running) increased by 22% at RLC intersections. In addition, rear-end crashes increased state-wide by 35% at RLC intersections" (Florida Red-light Cameras, 2014). Additionally, they found the most significant state-wide increases in these two types of accidents occurred in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

It should be noted the ATS contract provided a \$4,250 monthly charge per camera when the program was operational. This created a \$136,000 monthly bill from ATS to keep the 32 cameras running. On March 17, 2015, City Manager Lee Feldman authored CAM #15-0362, which outlined the cancellation of the RLC program and included a financial breakdown of total revenues and expenditures for FY2010 - March 2015. During FY2014, the last complete year of the RLC program, the expenditures were \$518,529 more than the revenues created.

Re-establishing the RLC program would require the staffing compliment of five public safety aides and one sergeant. These positions would require the creation of newly funded positions or the reallocation of personnel who currently handle other jobs and responsibilities. Off-site office space would be required and outfitted with City network capabilities. A preliminary estimate of the cost is roughly \$704,000 for personnel (complete package) plus the expense of office space.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *2022 Commission* Priority, advancing the Community Response and Safety initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area
- Goal 6: Build a safe and well-prepared community.
- Objective: Prevent and solve crime in all neighborhoods.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Public Safety Focus Area
- The Coastal Management, Community Health and Safety Element
- Goal 4: Coordinate with related partners and agencies (at city, local, county, regional, state, and federal levels) to plan for disaster and emergency management, further the resiliency of coastal areas, and ensure city-wide community health and safety.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 - City Commission Conference Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2015

Exhibit 2 - CAM #15-0362 – Discussion of Red Light Camera System

Exhibit 3 - Red Light Camera Research Memo – February 7, 2014

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Prepared by: Dana Swisher, Assistant Chief, Police Department

Department Director: Patrick Lynn, Chief of Police, Police Department