

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Shetter and members of the Burleson City Council

From: Paul Cain, Deputy City Manager

Date: June 1, 2009

Subject: Discussion of Use of Revenues from Photographic Traffic Signal Enforcement System (PTSES).

Council Action Requested:

Staff seeks Council direction on uses for PTSES (aka Red Light Camera or RLC) revenues.

Background Information:

Revenue from citation penalties during FY 2008-2009 totaled \$325,171. Costs for system operation and other allowable expenses totaled \$231,829.47. Included within the allowable expenses is the time spent by police officers reviewing citations as well as the time spent by the program administrator managing the program and setting up and attending appeal hearings. Under its contract with ATS, the City pays \$57,000 annually per intersection approach (\$4,750 monthly). This amount increases by the Phoenix Metropolitan Area CPI, adjusted as of the beginning of the third year of the initial contract term.

After payment of eligible expenses, the total net revenue for FY 08-09 was \$93,341.53. Of this total net revenue, one-half (\$46,670.77) was sent to the State of Texas (regional trauma account) with the City retaining an equal amount.

Council direction is needed regarding how to spend the city's share of the net revenue (\$46,670.77 in FY 2008-2009). These revenues can be used "only to fund traffic safety programs, including pedestrian safety programs, intersection improvements, and traffic enforcement" (Transportation Code, Section 707.008 (a)(2)).

Staff contacted a number of cities with active RLC programs to get an idea of how funds were spent. Return information is as follows:

Frisco- Traffic enforcement and intersection improvements projects such as radar speed boards for school zones, backup power systems for traffic signals and traffic signal controllers.

Plano- Traffic enforcement; Backup generators for traffic signals; OT for DWI patrols; traffic safety advertising/public information; handheld ticketwriters.

Due to the relatively small amount of revenue available each year, large (expensive) capital projects are difficult to fund with RLC revenues due to the long period of time these revenues would have to be saved to accumulate enough for such a project. Due to the volatility, these revenues are not good sources for debt financing.

Staff recommends City Council consider the following uses:

1. **Youth Safety Programs**—To include:
 - Sponsorship of “Less Tears, More Years” and/or “Shattered Dreams”. Staff envisions a “\$1 to \$1” matching grant not to exceed one-half of the program cost(s).
 - Safe routes to schools (sidewalks around school sites)

2. **Limited Intersection Improvements**— To include projects such as:
 - Elimination of visibility triangle encroachments/obstructions
 - Enhanced pavement markings and/or signage

Staff looks forward to receiving Council’s direction.

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