

# POLICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 22, 2001

The Police Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 22, 2001 at 3:30 p.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman  
Jim Davidson  
Pat Pomeroy

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mike Whalen

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson

1. Discuss and consider a recommendation to restructure and amend the current Photo-Safety Services Contract with Lockheed Martin IMS.

Police Commander Rick Clore addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item. Commander Clore reported that in November 2000, the City of Mesa Transportation Department established a demonstrated traffic safety need to increase yellow signal phase timing at all double left-hand turn intersections in Mesa and also to include the six approaches monitored by photo-red light cameras. Commander Clore explained that the three to four-second increase has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of red light violations at the six photo-safety intersections, which has created a financial loss for Lockheed Martin IMS (Lockheed). Commander Clore stated that Lockheed filed a letter with the City Manager seeking an equitable adjustment to their current contract.

Commander Clore commented that in response to Lockheed's request, staff has made the following recommendations for contract modifications:

- The vendor fee structure for photo-red light complaints and photo-speed complaints will be increased from the current level of \$48.50 per paid complaint.

The proposed vendor fee structure for each paid photo-red light complaint is as follows:

First 900 complaints paid each month - \$73.00  
Next 300 complaints paid each month - \$65.00  
Greater than 1200 paid complaints - \$48.50

- The City shall exercise the contract renewal options so the Photo-Safety Services Contract will expire on May 1, 2005.
- Five photo-red light camera sets will be removed from service.  
The camera housings will remain in place, affording the opportunity to rotate 12 camera sets through 17 camera housings.

- Expansion of the deployment of the five photo-speed vans from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and with additional placement on non-arterial streets, school zones and residential streets.
- Lockheed Martin IMS will not incur costs associated with acquiring names and addresses for the mailing of complaints on behalf of the Mesa Police Department.

Lockheed Martin is optimistic that with the assistance of the Police Department, they can access the information needed to process traffic complaints as “an agent of the police department.” This method is currently under review by the Police Department; however, in an effort to provide Council with other options, alternatives will be offered including a pass-through surcharge to the violator, or to hire two full-time police employees to process the information using current law enforcement databases.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Mesa City Court increased red-light complaint sanctions to \$170 in October 2000; the fact that the increase resulted in the City receiving substantially more revenue per paid photo-red light citation than in past years; the fact that for every paid citation, the City will receive approximately \$23 per paid complaint; the fact that the vendor is paid based on the number of paid complaints and that the City has no actual liability; the fact that a worst case scenario would result in a \$22,600 negative fiscal impact to the City if the number of paid complaints remains static, and the fact that anticipating favorable legislation regarding time limits to serve complaints, driver complacency and the zero-tolerance red light running policy, that the number of paid complaints will increase and mitigate a portion of the negative fiscal impact.

Committeemember Pomeroy stated the opinion that the primary purpose of the Photo-Safety Program is to ensure the safety of Mesa’s citizens. Committeemember Pomeroy also voiced support for the expansion of the deployment of the five photo-speed vans.

In response to a question from Committeemember Pomeroy, Commander Clore clarified that the City currently has 13 intersections that employ photo-safety technology, of which 11 are straight-through and six are left-turn lanes. Commander Clore advised that a determination has not been reached which five camera sets will be removed, but stressed that the Police Department will make a final determination in that regard. Commander Clore added that staff would return to the Police Committee with such recommendations.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson spoke regarding the surcharges received by the State of Arizona as a result of the Photo-Safety Services Contract fee structure.

Committeemember Davidson voiced support for an increase in the vendor fee structure in an effort to continue to provide effective public safety measures to the community.

In response to a question from Committeemember Davidson, Materials Management Director Sharon Seekins reported that upon mutual consent of both parties, the Photo-Safety Services Contract can be canceled with a 30-day notice, however, if one of the parties to the contract does not give consent to the termination, the cancellation notice increases to 180 days.

In response to questions from Committeemember Davidson, Commander Clore advised that with the expansion of the deployment of the five photo-speed vans, the Police Department does not anticipate any overtime costs associated with this matter, and the fact that Interim City Attorney Joe Padilla has reviewed the proposal with regard to Lockheed’s designation to act on behalf of the Police Department.

Committeemember Davidson concurred with Committeemember Pomeroy's comments that the intent of the Photo-Safety Program was not as a revenue source for the City, but to address the red-light running problem within the community.

In response to questions from Chairman Kavanaugh, Commander Clore explained that since the inception of the Photo-Safety program in Mesa, the Police Department has seen a 22 % decrease in the number of intersection-related accidents and a 15% reduction in accidents Citywide. Commander Clore added that the City's current contract with Lockheed is one of the least expensive Photo-Safety programs in Arizona.

In response to a question from Committeemember Pomeroy regarding a red-light cameras program conducted by the City, Commander Clore explained that it would be a very expensive alternative to the current contract. Commander Clore said that the cost to the City for the installation of the necessary infrastructure, the operation of the processing center and an increase in personnel is estimated between \$1.5 to \$1.7 million.

Committeemember Pomeroy requested input from staff with regard to the feasibility of a City-sponsored red-light cameras program.

In response to a question from Committeemember Davidson, Commander Clore informed the Committee that based on the proposed contract revisions, the City will not be required to pay a \$2500 monthly fee for each photo-red light intersection approach that falls below established violation standards.

It was moved by Committeemember Davidson, seconded by Committeemember Pomeroy, to recommend to the Council that staff be directed to restructure and amend the current Photo-Safety Services Contract with Lockheed Martin IMS as outlined.

Chairman Kavanaugh spoke in support of the motion and stated that the proposed contract revisions represent a compromise between the City and Lockheed to extend its partnership and also to provide effective public safety measures to the community.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Kavanaugh thanked Commander Clore for his presentation.

2. Discuss Police Department reaccreditation process.

Assistant Police Chief Dennis Donna and Police Lieutenant Mark Wesselman addressed the Committee regarding this agenda item. Chief Donna explained that the accreditation process is designed to enable the Mesa Police Department to maintain compliance with standards which are implemented by the Commission on Accreditation on Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Lieutenant Wesselman reported that CALEA, which was originally established in 1979, was created to increase law enforcement agency capabilities, to prevent and control crime, to increase agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services, to increase cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and with other agencies of the criminal justice system, and to increase citizen and employee confidence in the goals, objectives, policies and practices of the agency.

Lieutenant Wesselman explained that there are currently 442 CALEA standards, including 342 mandatory standards that deal with life, health, safety and legal matters, and 86 other-than-mandatory standards, which focus on desirable law enforcement practices. Lieutenant Wesselman stated that the Mesa Police Department is currently in full compliance with 342 mandatory standards and 81 of the other-than-mandatory standards.

Lieutenant Wesselman spoke regarding the reaccreditation process, which is slated for August 18-21, 2001.

In response to a question from Committeemember Pomeroy, Lieutenant Wesselman stated that the three-year accreditation process, as opposed to every five years, provides the law enforcement agencies with a more appropriate timeframe within which to monitor their compliance of the CALEA standards.

Committeemember Davidson voiced support for the accreditation process and emphasized that it is critical that there are national consensus guidelines to ensure the effectiveness of the country's public safety and fire service providers.

Lieutenant Wesselman provided the Committee with a cost analysis for CALEA accreditation and reaccreditation.

Chairman Kavanaugh spoke in appreciation of staff's presentation.

3. Discuss Crime Lab accreditation.

Crime Lab Administrator Jon Kokanovich provided the Police Committee with brief background relative to this agenda item. Mr. Kokanovich stated that in an effort to receive crime lab accreditation, the Mesa Police Department is evaluated on 128 standards such as personnel, evidence procedures and health and safety programs. Mr. Kokanovich noted that at the present time, the City has met all 63 essential standards, 41 out of 45 important standards, and 19 out of 20 desirable standards.

Assistant Police Chief Dennis Donna emphasized that the Mesa Police Department is only one of 18 agencies in the United States that is accredited department-wide and as a crime lab. Chief Donna added that this distinction enhances the Department's ability to testify in court and is a major source of pride for the entire Department.

Chairman Kavanaugh commended the Department for their achievements and noted that the Mesa Police Department crime lab is held in the highest regard throughout the Phoenix legal community.

Chairman Kavanaugh thanked staff for its presentation.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Police Committee meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Police Committee Meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on May 22, 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2001.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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