



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 30, 2013

The Public Safety Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 30, 2013 at 9:22 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

John Pombier
Alfred Smith

1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on an update of the Police Department's Photo Safety Program.

Lieutenant Intrieri introduced Assistant Police Chief Mario Lattanzio, who was prepared to address the Committee. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and provided an update on the Police Department's Photo Safety Program. He said that the Photo Safety Program was designed as a means to enhance traffic safety by supplementing traditional traffic enforcement methods and improving driver behavior.

Lieutenant Intrieri reported that currently, five school zones and 24 intersections have been equipped with fixed-speed cameras. He said that 15 of the intersection cameras capture "Speed on Green" as well as red light violations. He stated that the Police Department also utilizes two mobile units (vans) for selective enforcement and special traffic safety requests throughout the City. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1) He added that the school zones equipped with fixed-speed cameras are as follows:

- Rhodes Junior High School
- Fremont Junior High School
- Brimhall Junior High School
- Mesa High School
- Skyline High School

Lieutenant Intrieri advised that from 2007 to 2011, the City's monitored intersections experienced a 35.5% reduction in serious injury collisions. He also noted that 56% of the photo safety violations that occurred at monitored intersections were attributed to out-of-City registered owners. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Lieutenant Intrieri reported that after the extension of the Photo Safety Contract in 2012, the Police Department relocated some of the intersection cameras to school zones and reduced the number of camera vans used throughout the City. He said that the vans are now specifically utilized in school zones and special request areas.

In response to a series of questions from Chairman Kavanaugh, Lieutenant Intrieri advised that approximately 16 neighborhood requests for speed safety camera vans have been received. He explained that the Police Department reviews the requests and determines whether it is in the best interest of the City to have a motor officer monitor a location for four to six hours or have a van deployed.

Lieutenant Intrieri indicated that while the Police Department has not conducted specific outreach within the neighborhoods, they do maintain a database and follow up on all of the traffic requests that are received. He noted that the Traffic Division is aware of the problem areas and will periodically deploy an officer to monitor those locations.

Lieutenant Intrieri briefly outlined four options for the Committee to consider with regard to the Photo Safety Program as follows:

- Continue with the current configuration
- Only operate cameras in school zones and intersections
- Only operate cameras in school zones
- Eliminate the Photo Safety Program entirely

Lieutenant Intrieri advised that another solution would be to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) and solicit vendors for a new program and new equipment. He added that a second option would be to maximize the useful life of the current equipment by entering into a service agreement with the current vendor. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1)

Deputy City Manager John Pombier commented that a service agreement was not an option at the time staff requested the contract extension a year ago.

Lieutenant Intrieri stated that a service agreement will allow the Police Department to continue the Photo Safety Program. He added that if any of the equipment should fail it would be replaced by the vendor.

Chief Lattanzio advised that the original equipment that was purchased has begun to age. He said that the question now is how useful will this equipment be to the City in the future and what new technology is available.

Mr. Pombier commented that a service agreement is an attractive option that the City did not have before. He said that since the last contract extension, the current vendor has been very accommodating and has done everything that the City has asked in terms of maximizing the life of the equipment and providing new equipment.

Mr. Pombier stated that the vendor has helped to change the purpose of the vans from that of a "speed trap" to more of a safety measure. He said that the City Manager's Office believes that the program has reached the goals of providing intersection safety and driver behavior modification. He noted that staff will be requesting Council's direction before pursuing a service agreement with the vendor.

Committeemember Glover expressed his support for the elimination of the Photo Safety Program in its entirety. He said that he would rather see the money that has been spent on this program used to put more men and women in uniform on the street and provide a police presence in neighborhoods.

Committeemember Glover further remarked that an actual motor officer making a traffic stop has the ability to use discretion when there are extenuating circumstances. He stated that for these reasons he would not support the renewal of any contract.

Committeemember Finter concurred with Councilmember Glover's comments and said that he also supported the option to eliminate the program.

It was moved by Committeemember Glover, seconded by Committeemember Finter, that this item be forwarded on to the full Council with the recommendation that the Photo Safety Program be eliminated.

Chairman Kavanaugh expressed opposition to the motion and said that the City should continue to use photo safety as a tool in its Traffic Control Program. He said that the City should explore the option of a service agreement with the current vendor or issue an RFP to obtain a new vendor. He stated that the changes that were made several years ago were critical to the credibility of the program and noted that there has been a reduction in speed in school zones.

Chairman Kavanaugh further indicated his support for intersection cameras and noted that the cameras have reduced the number of head-on collisions. He also said that reducing the number of vans and using them in school zones has been a significant improvement. He suggested that additional community outreach be conducted to advise citizens that upon request, a speed enforcement van could be positioned in their neighborhood.

Chairman Kavanaugh remarked that the photo radar vans are the "sneaky element" that the public does not like. He noted, however, that their presence is appreciated in school zones. He added that he has been involved with the Photo Safety Program for many years and, therefore, would not be supporting the motion.

Mr. Pombier clarified that this item would be moved on to the full Council with the 2-1 recommendation to eliminate the program.

Chairman Kavanaugh stated that it was his understanding of Council Committee policy, that an issue that does not pass through the Council Committee would not move on to the full Council unless the City Manager, the Mayor or three Councilmembers requested that it be placed on an agenda. He noted that even though the Committee has not yet voted on the pending motion, he would assume that the matter will be forwarded on to the full Council to consider the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Pombier commented that he had previously indicated to the full Council that he would bring back this item for their consideration.

Chairman Kavanaugh called for the vote.

Upon tabulation of the votes it showed:

AYES – Finter-Glover

NAYS – Kavanaugh

Chairman Kavanaugh declared the motion carried by majority vote.

Chairman Kavanaugh thanked staff for their efforts.

Discussion ensued with regards to when this item would be presented to the full Council.

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on an update of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program with the Police Department.

Assistant Police Chief John Meza introduced Crime Prevention Officer Patty Gallagher and Assistant City Prosecutor Wendy Duggan, who were prepared to address the Committee. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) and provided brief background information regarding the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) program.

Chief Meza stated that the Convenience Store Ordinance was originally approved by the Council on July 14, 2011, and at that time there were 41 stores that fell within the requirements of the CPTED program. He said that all of the convenience stores were required to be in compliance with the Ordinance by November 11, 2011. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2)

Chief Meza highlighted some of the positive results that have been experienced since the implementation of the CPTED program as follows:

- Stores are coming into compliance and staying in compliance
- Calls for service have declined slightly
- Better communication and working relationships have been established between the stores and the Police Department
- Registration information allows the Police Department to work with the stores “decision makers”
- Safer work environment for store staff
- Cameras have assisted in arrests

Chief Meza explained that requiring convenience stores to have cameras has impacted the number of arrests that have been made. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Gallagher described a shooting incident that occurred outside one of the convenience stores. She said that with the help of the cameras that were installed outside of the store the officers were able to review the video and were able to make an arrest that night. She added that if the cameras were not in place there would have been little evidence to assist the police officers in making an arrest.

Chief Meza stated that having the ability to obtain the video images in a timely manner aided the officers in making the arrest. He added that while the number of calls for service have declined the number of arrests have increased, which is an indication that the program is working.

Ms. Gallagher displayed a comparison in the number of calls for service in 2010 to those in 2012. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2) She said that 2012 was the first full year that the Ordinance was in effect and noted the decline in the number of calls for services. She further reported that the number of calls for service between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. (when beer coolers are required to be secured) declined by nearly half.

Ms. Gallagher commented that Crime Prevention Officers are listening to the storeowners' concerns and ideas. She said that storeowners and managers have requested that they have the ability to complete their registration online. Ms. Gallagher advised that staff has created a fillable PDF so that storeowners can provide registration information online. She added that Crime Prevention Officers continue to visit the stores regularly to ensure that they are in compliance.

Ms. Gallagher reported that the relationship between the storeowners and the Police Department has improved. She said that Crime Prevention Officers will alert storeowners of upcoming special events that could potentially lead to an increase in beer runs so that they will have time to take extra precautions.

Chief Meza commented that Crime Prevention Officers work closely with the stores that have experienced problems in order to bring them into compliance. He advised that a total of 14 violations have been discovered and a total of \$2,100 in fines have been collected. He noted that at this time only two stores have been cited.

Chief Meza described some of the issues that have been identified since the program started. He reported that at this time staff is unable to add stores that are experiencing an increase in the number of calls for service to the program. He said that currently there is only one store that would need to be added and three that would be removed. He added that staff is working on a solution to this problem.

Chief Meza stated that staff is recommending that some changes be made to clarify the Ordinance. He said that the proposed language changes will help avoid any possible misinterpretation of the Ordinance.

Chief Meza discussed the requirements for the online reporting of minor thefts. (See Page 9 of Attachment 2) He said that online reporting can be used when the suspect is unknown and the value of the loss is under \$250. He stated that this call reduction strategy will save the store staff time as the report can be submitted online at their convenience and will not interrupt their regular business.

In response to a question from Committeemember Finter, Chief Meza stated that since the majority of the proposed changes to the Ordinance are for clarification purposes staff did not think it was necessary to present them to the convenience store representatives.

Chairman Kavanaugh suggested that the proposed changes be presented to the community representatives.

Chief Meza stated that staff would discuss the proposed changes to the Ordinance with the community representatives before bringing the recommendation back to the full Council.

Chairman Kavanaugh advised that staff is recommending that the Ordinance revisions be forwarded on to the full Council, with the understanding that staff will meet with the interested parties and advise them of the proposed changes.

Mr. Pombier advised that the proposed changes to the Convenience Store Ordinance will not be brought to the full Council until after staff has had an opportunity to meet with the representatives. He said that staff will determine if the parties have any issues with the revisions or if there is a consensus that the changes should be made.

It was moved by Committeemember Finter, seconded by Committeemember Glover, that the proposed changes to the Convenience Store Ordinance be discussed with the community representatives prior to forwarding the revised Ordinance on to the full Council for discussion and consideration.

Committeemember Glover thanked the Police Department for their efforts and said that many of the businesses have indicated that they appreciate the work that the Crime Prevention Officers are doing in our community.

Chairman Kavanaugh concurred with Committeemember Glover's comments and expressed support for the motion. He said that since the adoption of the Ordinance there has been a measurable decrease in the number of calls for service and an increase in the number of arrests. He added that the changes that have been enacted have created a safer environment for the employees, the members of the community and our officers.

Chairman Kavanaugh called for the vote and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Public Safety Committee meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 30th day of May, 2013. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

bdw
(attachments – 2)

THE CITY OF MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT

PHOTO SAFETY PROGRAM

Public Safety Committee

May 30, 2013





The purpose of the **Photo Safety**

Program is to enhance traffic safety by supplementing traditional traffic enforcement methods to improve driver behavior.



- **Current Configuration**
- **Future Program Discussion**





mesa·az *Photo Safety Configuration*

- **5 School Zones currently equipped with fixed speed cameras**
 - Rhodes Junior High School
 - Fremont Junior High School
 - Brimhall Junior High School
 - Mesa High School
 - Skyline High School
- **24 Intersection Cameras**
 - 24 Cameras Installed as Intersection Safety Cameras
 - 15 cameras capture “Speed on Green” through intersections
- **2 Mobile Units / Vans**
 - Used for selective enforcement/Traffic Safety requests



Program Review

- The City of Mesa experienced a 35.5% reduction in serious injury collisions at monitored intersections from 2007-2011.
- 56% of photo safety violations are attributed to out-of-city registered owners.

Since Contract Extension (2012)

- Relocated Intersection Safety Cameras to School Zone Safety Cameras
- Reduced Mobile Speed Safety Camera Vans (5 to 2)
- Vans are deployed in school zones/special requests



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Program Options

- Continue with current configuration
- Operate Intersection/School Zones
- Operate School Zones exclusively
- Eliminate program





Program Solutions

- Issue RFP to replace aging equipment
 - *Solicit vendors for new program/equipment*
- Maximize the useful life of current equipment
 - *Enter service agreement to continue with current vendor/equipment*



Direction

The Mesa Police Department's efforts to implement and sustain a comprehensive traffic safety plan is critical to the well-being and safety of the City of Mesa, its residents and visitors.

The Mesa Police Department seeks direction from members of the City Council to secure program focus pending the current contract expiration of February, 2014.

Convenience Store Ordinance Update



Mesa Police Department
May 30, 2013



Timeline



- œ July 14, 2011 ~ Ordinance Approved and Adopted
- œ September 12, 2011 ~ Ordinance goes into effect
- œ September 14, 2011 ~ 41 stores notified of requirements
- œ November 11, 2011 ~ All Convenience Stores required to be in compliance with the ordinance.

Positive Outcomes



- œ Stores are coming into compliance and staying in compliance
- œ Calls for Service have declined slightly
- œ Better communication and working relationship with stores and Police
- œ Registrations information directs Police to work with actual decision makers

Additional Positives



- œ Store Staff expresses safer working environment
- œ Cameras have impacted Arrests:
 - œ Cameras are located both inside and outside
 - œ Stabbing Arrest on W. University
 - œ Better images from the cameras
 - œ Getting images and video in a more timely manner

CFS Comparison



☞ 2010* (No Ordinance)	☞ 2011** (Transitional)	☞ 2012*** (1 st Full Year in Effect)
☞ CFS = 2,763	☞ CFS = 2,549	☞ CFS = 2,375
☞ CFS 2-6 a.m. = 226	☞ CFS 2-6 a.m. = 101	☞ CFS 2-6 a.m. = 127
☞ Arrests = 484	☞ Arrests = 662	☞ Arrests = 582
☞ Citywide CFS = 4,175 ☞ Convenience Stores Only	☞ Citywide CFS = 3,855 ☞ Convenience Stores Only	☞ Citywide CFS = 3,787 ☞ Convenience Stores Only

*Year is from September 12, 2009 - September 11, 2010

** Year is from September 12, 2010 - September 11, 2011

*** Year is from September 12, 2011 - September 11, 2012

Working with Stores



- ☞ Crime Prevention Officers listen to store owner concerns and ideas
- ☞ Crime Prevention Officers have added an on-line registration form
- ☞ Crime Prevention Officers continue to visit stores
- ☞ Crime Prevention Officers alert owners / managers of incidents that are of concern

Issues



- ❧ Two stores have been cited
 - ❧ Were given multiple warnings
 - ❧ First store has been fined and is now working toward compliance
 - ❧ 14 Violations ~ \$2,100 in Fines paid
 - ❧ Only a few minor items to correct now
 - ❧ Second store has corrected all but one violation and has been fined.
- ❧ Crime Prevention Officers are working closely with stores to bring them into compliance
- ❧ Currently no way to add stores who have a spike in CFS
- ❧ Future reassessment of stores
- ❧ Recommended clarification and changes to the ordinance

Recommended

Clarification & Changes

- œ Wording change of the ordinance:
 - œ For Clarification/Simplification
 - œ To Provide Consistency/Reduce Chance of Misinterpretation
 - œ Ordinance needs to be subdivided for proper notice of violation
 - œ Needs amendment to be consistent with other city code chapters
- œ Examples:
 - œ Signage
 - œ Definition of “Remodel”
 - œ Violations; Penalties

Additional Call Reduction Strategies



- œ Required On-Line Reporting of Minor Thefts
 - œ Not In Progress
 - œ Suspect Unknown
 - œ Loss Value Under \$250
- œ Will save store's staff time
 - œ Can do report at their convenience
 - œ Don't have to interrupt regular business to give info to Police
 - œ Will still generate a Police Report Number
 - œ Will still receive Police Follow-Up/Investigation
 - œ CIS will retrieve video and other evidence as requested

QUESTIONS?