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## **Oxnard Red Light Cameras**

The 2016-2017 Ventura County Grand Jury received a complaint regarding the operation of the red light cameras (RLC) in the City of Oxnard. The Grand Jury opened an investigation to review the cost and operation of red light cameras at eight intersections in the City.

Research by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety shows accidents are reduced at intersections with red light camera systems.

The current RLC contract was signed in 2008 with Redflex Traffic Systems, Inc. As of December 31, 2016, the City had an accrued negative balance of over \$800,000, which is to be "reconciled" upon termination of the contract. The Grand Jury concluded the contract is vague and does not make it clear if the City is required to pay any accrued balance at the end of the contract period.

The Grand Jury also concluded the RLC program, as currently structured, is likely to generate a significant outstanding balance. The fact that a sizeable balance was allowed to accrue suggests the City has not employed proper oversight in regards to the RLC program. The Grand Jury recommends the City Council require an audit of the program to examine if adequate oversight, financial controls, and procedures were employed in the management of the program.

The Grand Jury concluded the duration of the yellow lights at four RLC intersections, as reported by the City, is not in conformance with State standards. Even small inaccuracies in yellow light durations pose a potential financial liability to the City as citations could be dismissed. The Grand Jury recommends the City Council direct a program be instituted, starting with the RLC intersections, to ensure yellow light duration at all intersections is set in accordance with State standards.

The public is invited to review the entire report. It can be accessed at [www.ventura.org/grand-jury](http://www.ventura.org/grand-jury); click on the Annual Reports tab and consult "Fiscal Year 2016-2017".