

## City of Brisbane Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Lisa Macias, Chief of Police  
DATE: September 13, 2010  
SUBJECT: Response to the 2009/2010 Grand Jury Report on Red Light Camera Enforcement

**PURPOSE:**

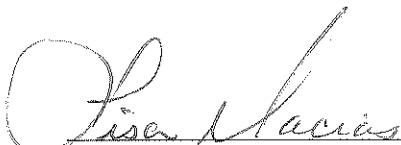
The 2009-2010 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) filed a report on June 7, 2010 which contained findings and recommendations that pertain to the City of Brisbane regarding the Effectiveness of Red Light Traffic Camera Enforcement.


**RECOMMENDATION:**

The City of Brisbane was asked to respond to these findings and recommendations as they pertain to the City of Brisbane and have the City Council approve the attached recommendation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Grand Jury reviewed whether the installation and use of the red light cameras is cost effective and productive strategy for reducing the incidence of vehicle collisions or are cities using these camera installations primarily as a source of revenue. Although the City of Brisbane does not have any red light cameras within our city at this time, we have responded to their findings and recommendations which are attached.

  
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Lisa Macias, Chief of Police

  
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Clayton Holstine, City Manager

CITY OF BRISBANE  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ELIZABETH MACIAS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

August 30, 2010

Honorable Clifford V. Cretan  
Judge of the Superior Court  
Hall of Justice  
400 Old County Road  
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: Response to the Effectiveness of Red Light Traffic Camera Enforcement

Dear Honorable Clifford V. Cretan:

We are in receipt of the Grand Jury's report entitled, "The Effectiveness of Red Light Camera Enforcement," pursuant to your June 7, 2010, request for response, the Brisbane City Council will review and approve the below recommendations at their first available meeting on September 13, 2010.

**Findings:**

**The Effectiveness of Red Light Traffic Camera Enforcement**

The San Mateo County 2009-2010 Grand Jury makes the following recommendations to the City Councils of the cities of San Mateo County:

1. Consideration of where a red light camera is installed should be driven by the number of vehicle collisions occurring at that intersection and not the potential amount of revenue generated from citations. Because of the impact on the courts as well as the citizenry, a final decision should be made by the respective city council in public hearings.

**RESPONSE:** *The City of Brisbane agrees in part with the findings. The city agrees that the decision to install a red light camera should be driven by factors other than increasing potential revenue. However, accident data alone is an insufficient means of determining the appropriate need and location for a red light camera. Hazards to the general public (bicyclists and pedestrians), viability of officers to enforce the intersection manually, citizen complaints, and accident potential due to high percentage of violations are just samples of other viable considerations.*

*In regards to public hearings, Section 21455.6(a) CVC already requires a public hearing prior to the installation of a red light camera system.*

2. Each Jurisdiction installing a red light camera should measure its ongoing effectiveness by the number of accidents caused from red light violations before and after installation.

**RESPONSE:** *The City of Brisbane agrees in part with the findings. Accident data has always been a useful tool in measuring the positive impacts of traffic enforcement. However, traffic accident data should be combined with other measurable factors to determine the overall effectiveness of a particular red light camera. One of the positive effects of a red light camera system is to heighten the general awareness of the average driver. As a result, the effect of a red light camera or a series of cameras in a community can affect the overall accident rate within that community. Whether or not the percentage of violations have decreased at a particular red light camera intersection is another measurable factor to consider.*

3. Establish consistent and regular reporting of accident rates to senior officials including the respective city councils. This should be done at least annually. When reports indicate that accident rates have not been reduced, action should be taken to investigate why and removal of the red light cameras should be considered if they are not effective.

**RESPONSE:** *The City of Brisbane agrees in part with the findings. As stated above, accident rate data is only part of the analysis necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of a particular red light camera. A report to senior officials should include all information relevant to that particular city and their system of red light cameras.*

4. Working through the county Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and/or the City Managers Association, establish and require consistent protocols to be used by all county cities for evaluating violations and the issuance of a citation. Such county-wide standards can allow courts to more quickly and effectively evaluate appeals that come before it.

**RESPONSE:** *The City of Brisbane agrees with the findings. A county wide protocol to address these issues has been drafted and will be reviewed for adoption by the Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association (PCSA) later this year.*

5. Install prominent signage, at the camera intersection, highly visible to all approaching traffic warning motorists of the camera. This should include signage warning motorists to come to a full stop before turning right on a red light.

**RESPONSE:** *The City of Brisbane agrees in part with the findings. Signage, in conjunction with a red light camera, can be an effective tool in reducing the accident rates at these intersections. Signage for red light cameras is covered under 21455.5(a) 1 CVC and regulated by Caltrans through the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.*

6. Working through the county Police Chiefs and Sheriff Association and/or the City Managers Association, consider centralizing the administrative tasks of evaluating possible violations and issuance of citations. This would not only achieve budgetary savings but would also insure consistent and professional applications of the protocols affecting San Mateo drivers.

**RESPONSE:** *The City of Brisbane agrees with the findings. Centralizing the administrative tasks associated with evaluating violations and issuing citations could achieve budgetary savings and provide more consistent and professional services to the community.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recommendations made by the Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Macias".

Elizabeth Macias,  
Chief of Police