



Safety and Well-being Committee Summary Minutes

Tuesday, November 25, 2014 1:30 PM City & County Building, Room 391

Committee Members: López, Chair; Faatz, Vice-Chair; Brooks; Kniech; Lehmann; Susman

Committee Staff: Zach Rothmier

Council Members Present: Faatz, Kniech, Lehmann, Lopez, Brooks, Herndon

Members Absent: Susman

Bill Requests

BR14-0950 Amends the contract with Xerox State and Local Solutions to add \$81,000, for a new total of \$1,104,272, and extend it for 6 months, through 6-30-15, to continue the Automated Photo Red Light Program during the request for proposal process (CE-01061-06).

*Police Commander Phelan, Laura Wachter and Jeannie Springer,
Manager of Safety's Office*

Councilwoman Faatz could not support the red light enforcement. Her original understanding was that only drivers who ran red lights would be ticketed. However, in practice, people are being ticketed for stopping on the white line, even when there are no pedestrians or bike riders in sight.

Commander Phelan said that when the front wheels pass the stop line, the front of the car is in the crosswalk, and this is a safety issue. Accidents at Lincoln and 6th have decreased 38% under this program. Most ticketed drivers only get one ticket.

Potential for expansion of the program is included in the Request for Proposals, as well as public education.

Councilmembers at the meeting supportive of the program offered their comments, including Brooks, who suggested we research the impacts in other cities such as Portland, Seattle and Austin.

Councilmember Faatz said the original request was to extend the yellow light, which gives drivers more opportunity to stop.

Councilmember Lopez invited representatives from the Commission for People with Disabilities to address the Committee. This is an important issue to them.

Mr. Shawn Smith said this is the third time the City has revisited this issue and we (disabilities community) are frustrated. He suggested that people stand at 36th and Quebec, close their eyes and try to cross that street. A car even a little way into the crosswalk is a major concern. We need to educate people on this issue. They need to understand the impact.

Councilmembers Lehmann, Lopez and Herndon expressed their support for the program.

Commander Phelan said crossing the white line is what triggers the camera. Every citation is reviewed by a police officer or a trained photo enforcement person before it is mailed.

A motion offered by Councilmember Kniech, duly seconded by Councilmember Lehmann, to file the bill carried by the following vote:

AYES: Herndon, Kniech, Lehmann, Lopez, Brooks(5)
NAYS: Faatz(1)
ABSENT: Susman(1)
ABSTAIN: (None)

BR14-0951 Amends the contract with Xerox State and Local Solutions to add \$708,000, for a new total of \$9,313,849, and extend it for 6 months, through 6-30-15, to continue the Photo Speed Enforcement Program during the request for proposal process (CE-81107-06).

*Police Commander Phelan, Laura Wachter and Jeannie Springer,
Manager of Safety's Office*

Councilmember Kniech asked about the number of locations and the rotation patterns of the speed trailer, adding that she has never seen it on Federal. How many locations? How can Council have influence on the locations?

Commander Phelan said we have five trailers that are rotated regularly. The State statutes provide guidelines and rules about where the trailers may be. They can only be located where the speed limit is 35 or lower. Denver has placed the trailers in over 500 locations across the city, based partly citizen calls to 311, Council members calling, and critical locations with history of high speeding. This is very effective in certain locations. Photo reduces speed by about 20%.

Councilmembers Kniech and Lopez said the trailers seem to be in some neighborhoods much more than others; they need to be moved around more.

A motion offered by Councilmember Herndon, duly seconded by Councilmember Brooks, to file the bill carried by the following vote:

- AYES: Herndon, Faatz, Kniech, Lehmann, Lopez, Brooks(6)
- NAYS: (None)
- ABSENT: Susman(1)
- ABSTAIN: (None)