



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Cherie Harris, Chief of Police
Todd Aksdal, Deputy Chief of Police
Veronica Hill, Senior Financial Analyst

Date: June 6, 2024

Subject: 2024 Automated Safety Camera Program Update

RECOMMENDATION:

City Council receives an update on the Automated Safety Camera Program.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The last Automated Safety Camera Program update was from October, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

The following is a report on the Automated Safety Camera Program from January 1, 2024-March 31, 2024.

January 1, 2024-March 31, 2024:

During this period, all schools were open for in-person learning for five days per week.

Between January 1, 2024-March 31, 2024 (Q1 2024), 6,512 citations were issued, using the eight cameras in the John Muir, Kamiakin, Rose Hill, Lakeview, Carl Sandburg, Finn Hill, and Henry David Thoreau school zones.

During the preparation of this report, city staff discovered that the camera located at NB 84th Ave NE (Carl Sandburg) was active for thirty-five school days during the first quarter, while the other cameras were all active for fifty-seven school days. When contacted, an employee from Verra Mobility explained that the camera at NB 84th Ave NE was not operable due to vandalism and theft that occurred in January. The NB 84th Ave NE camera was inactive for twenty-two school days while Verra Mobility obtained replacement parts and completed repairs. The employee from Verra Mobility apologized that the city was not notified at the time and stated that they will make sure these types of issues are communicated to the city going forward. There was a total of 161 citations issued by the NB 84th Ave NE during the twenty-two school days that it was active. The 161 citations issued by the NB 84th Ave NE camera will be excluded from the below averages due to the discrepancy in active days.

The average number of citations issued per day in Q1 (excluding NB 84th Ave NE) was 111.42.

Location	Number of Citations Issued Q1 2024
NB 132 nd Ave NE	732
SB 132 nd Ave NE	1,534
EB NE 80 th St	448
WB NE 80 th St	418
SB State St	1,716
WB Lakeview Dr	702
Location	Number of Citations Issued Q1 2024
NB 84 th Ave Ne	161
SB 84 th Ave Ne	801

Citation Data:

The following bullet points further describe the type of citations that were issued between January 1, 2024-March 31, 2024.

- 4,674 citations (71.78%) were issued to drivers traveling between 26-30 mph and were issued \$136 fines
- 1,838 citations (28.22%) were issued to drivers traveling 31 mph and faster and were issued \$250 fines
 - **53 mph** is the fastest speed recorded in a school zone during the first quarter. That violation occurred on SB State St
- The average daily citations per day per camera (excluding NB 84th Ave Ne) for the first quarter of 2024 was 15.92.
 - January 2022: 16.43 average citations per camera per day
 - February 2022: 13.93
 - March 2022: 14.51
 - April 2022: 17.94
 - May 2022: 16.79
 - June 2022: 18.21
 - September 2022: 23.42
 - October 2022: 19.20
 - November 2022: 16.79
 - December 2022: 14.33
 - January 2023: 15.26
 - February 2023: 14.04
 - March 2023: 14.31
 - April 2023: 14.70
 - May 2023: 15.70
 - June 2023: 17.01
 - September 2023: 25.42

- October 2023: 20.71
- November 2023: 18.23
- December 2023: 17.01
- January 2024: 17.32 excluding NB 84th Ave NE
- February 2024: 15.66
- March 2024: 14.81

*In February the City of Kirkland Police and Public Works Departments were notified that the City of Kirkland prosecutor's office was dismissing tickets from the automated enforcement cameras on 84th Ave NE in Finn Hill because of concerns about the school zone being larger than 300 feet from the boundaries of the schools, and the timing of the enforcement period.

As a result, the northbound 84th Ave NE was reprogrammed to start issuing citations a ½ hour before the start and end of the school day at Carl Sandburg Elementary School and the southbound camera was reprogrammed to start issuing citations a ½ hour before the start and end of the school day at Thoreau Elementary School. These changes took effect on February 9, 2024, and have remained in place while the Public Works Department and the City Attorney's Office investigate this issue further.

- Vehicles registered to a 98033 or 98034 zip code accounted for 31.56% of the issued citations in the first quarter of 2024.
 - The city outside of Kirkland with the most citations issued was Redmond, which accounted for 7.72% of the total issued citations in the first quarter of 2024.
- Recidivism Rate for first Quarter of 2024:
 - 92.27% received one citation
 - 6.31% received two citations
 - 1.42% received three or more citations
- During the first quarter of 2024, afternoon school zone enforcement accounted for 51.31% of the citations issued, with the morning hours accounting for 46.69% of the citations issued.

Mitigations and Hearings:

As of April 15, 2024, 788 people receiving citations in the first quarter of 2024 have requested mitigation hearings (12.1% of all citations) and 261 people have requested contested hearings (4.01% of all citations). In addition to the hearing requests, 245 people receiving citations submitted affidavits stating that they were not the driver of the vehicle (3.76% of all citations). 164 citations were dismissed when affidavits were submitted stating that the registered owner was not the driver (2.52% of all citations). Liability transferred in the remaining eighty-one instances where the registered owner asserted that they were not the driver (1.24% of all citations).

The court's website offers customers the ability to electronically submit a written hearing statement and any attachments for consideration by the Judge or they can file by mail or drop-box.

Expenditures through Q1 2024:

Cash Flow Analysis:

Fines	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	2024	LTD TOTAL
Citations	\$ 400,883	\$ 732,749	\$ 1,577,980	\$ 1,645,897	\$ 2,718,519	\$ 322,018	\$ 265,895	\$ 267,444	\$ 855,358	\$ 7,931,385
Expenditures	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	2024	LTD TOTAL
Construction	\$ 27,319	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,319
ATS Contract	\$ 26,871	\$ 17,579	\$ 176,679	\$ 170,000	\$ 299,419	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 792,548
Utilities/Other	\$ 560	\$ 420	\$ 1,468	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,745	\$ 166	\$ 166	\$ 166	\$ 498	\$ 5,691
Police Staffing	\$ 50,284	\$ 166,864	\$ 167,452	\$ 341,722	\$ 372,900	\$ 21,723	\$ 32,672	\$ 45,966	\$ 100,361	\$ 1,199,582
Court Staffing	\$ 19,308	\$ 48,280	\$ 70,320	\$ 112,987	\$ 233,995	\$ 16,996	\$ 28,208	\$ 35,620	\$ 80,824	\$ 565,714
Total	\$ 124,342	\$ 233,143	\$ 415,919	\$ 625,709	\$ 908,060	\$ 72,885	\$ 95,046	\$ 115,752	\$ 283,683	\$ 2,590,854
Council Re-Approp./Other	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	2024	LTD TOTAL
Re-Appropriation	\$ -	\$ 123,157	\$ 335,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,775,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,253,157
Other Resources/Cost Offset	\$ (27,879)	\$ (417)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (28,296)
Total	\$ (27,879)	\$ 122,740	\$ 335,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 1,775,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,224,861
Balance	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	2024	LTD TOTAL
YTD/MTD	\$ 304,420	\$ 376,866	\$ 827,061	\$ 1,000,188	\$ 35,460	\$ 249,133	\$ 170,849	\$ 151,692	\$ 571,675	\$ 3,115,670
Ending Balance	\$ 304,420	\$ 681,286	\$ 1,508,347	\$ 2,508,536	\$ 2,543,995	\$ 2,793,128	\$ 2,963,978	\$ 3,115,670	\$ 3,115,670	

The ending fund balance as of 03/31/2024 was \$3,115,670. Options for investing the accumulated balance to improve public safety around schools will be presented during the 2025-2026 budget process in the fall.

Expenditures*:

**Costs continue to be updated with actual expenses as they are incurred, which is why expenditures from prior months may differ from memo to memo.*

Construction/Other Transportation Projects costs:

- Construction cost covered by REET funds.
- Construction cost for new cameras included in Re-Appropriation line item.
- Transfers-Out for Other Transportation Projects support school zone safety.

Ongoing costs:

- ATS Contract - Costs for monitoring of cameras.
- Utilities/Other - Costs for electricity to operate cameras.

Police staffing costs:

- Sustainment staffing costs for 2 FTE Traffic Officers.

Court staffing costs:

- Sustainment staffing costs for 1.0 FTE JSA Lead.
- Sustainment staffing costs for 1.50 FTE JSA II.
- Professional services charges for court commissioner.

Fines:

The Program has generated \$7,931,385 in total fines through 03/31/2024. All fines will either pay for operating costs of the cameras and staffing costs of court and police personnel or be invested in school zone pedestrian and bicycle safety projects as required by the ordinance authorizing the cameras.

Next Steps:

The next update to the Council will cover the second quarter of 2024. In addition, staff have developed options for Council consideration that would extend the school zone boundaries on 84th Ave NE and NE 132nd St, as well as extending the time that enforcement occurs during school hours.