



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

RESPONSE TO COUNCIL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RED LIGHT CAMERA INFRACTIONS

Date:	August 20, 2013
To:	Government Management Committee
From:	City Solicitor and Director, Court Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	GM18.9

SUMMARY

This report provides information requested by Council on November 27, 2012, following Government Management Committee consideration on November 15, 2012 of the October 30, 2012 report by the Director, Court Services and the City Solicitor regarding red light camera infractions.

DECISION HISTORY

This report responds to the City Council decision on November 28, 2012 <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.GM18.9> requesting that the Director, Court Services and the City Solicitor submit a follow up report advising of red light camera trial rates for the six month period from September 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The October 30, 2012 report indicated that between March 31 and August 31, 2012 the percentage of tickets where a trial was requested was 28.8% and an additional 24.2% of ticket recipients opted to have an early resolution meeting with a prosecutor. Between September 1, 2012 and February 28, 2013, a total of 14,538 red light camera tickets were issued by Transportation Services.

Of this total, ticket recipients asked for a trial on 3,403 tickets (23.4% of tickets issued) and an additional 3,598 (24.7% of tickets issued) ticket recipients requested a meeting with a City prosecutor by selecting the Early Resolution option on their ticket in an effort

to resolve their dispute without a trial. The majority of individuals, approximately 90%, who met with a City prosecutor were able to resolve their concerns at the time of the meeting and met with a justice of the peace to finalize the court proceeding without returning to the courthouse for a trial.

The Early Resolution program was formalized in Provincial legislation and implemented on March 31, 2012 when this new option was added to all tickets (except parking tickets) providing individuals with the opportunity to mail in their request to meet with a City prosecutor. Upon receipt, Court Services staff schedules the meeting and notifies the ticket recipient of the time and place of the meeting by mail. Where ticket recipients live more than 75 kilometres from the court office, the meeting can be scheduled to take place by phone. Prior to March 2012, there was an informal program offered by many municipalities, including the City of Toronto, where discussions with a prosecutor could be held, however, this required an in-person visit to the courthouse to request a meeting that was normally scheduled on another date.

COMMENTS

The introduction of the Early Resolution program has, in the first year of operation, successfully reduced the demand for court trial space on red light camera tickets and provides individuals easier access to a City prosecutor on an appointment basis that routinely takes less time to resolve compared to using the courtroom trial process. Results experienced in Toronto are comparable to results across other Ontario cities that have adopted this new program.

CONTACT:

Kalli Y. Chapman
Director of Prosecutions
416-392-8464, Fax – 416-338-6986
kychapman@toronto.ca

Barry Randell
Director, Court Services
416-392-3835, Fax – 416-338-7177
brandel@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Anna Kinastowski
City Solicitor

Barry Randell
Director, Court Services