



Gregg Mandsager
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TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator
DATE: October 15, 2013
RE: Resolution of Support for Automated Traffic Enforcement Devices

INTRODUCTION: The Iowa Department of Transportation's is proposing administrative rules concerning Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) devices that would restrict Iowa's cities' and counties' use of traffic control cameras.

BACKGROUND: The Police Department has been using ATE devices at five intersections since their inception on March 11, 2011. Statistics show that since that time, the City of Muscatine has had a 37% decline in personal injury cases, a 30% decline in property damage crashes, a 32% decline in overall violations issued, and a 20% decline in overall violations issued from 2012 to 2013 alone. The use of these devices has allowed the Police Department to allocate officers to other areas of town for community policing needs and traffic enforcement to make the city and surrounding areas safer. In addition, local revenues generated from the devices are dedicated to public safety programs and services.

RECOMMENDATION/RATIONALE: Staff is recommending City Council adopt a resolution of support for the continued use of ATE's for long-term community policing.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR AUTOMATED TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT DEVICES AS LONG-TERM SAFETY TOOLS
FOR THE CITY OF MUSCATINE**

WHEREAS, the City of Muscatine Police Department has been using Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) cameras at five intersections since March 11, 2011;

WHEREAS, the ATE's are being used as a long-term public safety tool, and local revenues generated from the devices are dedicated to public safety programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University is to develop and implement innovative methods, materials and technologies for improving transportation efficiency, safety, and reliability; and

WHEREAS, CTRE's Improving Traffic Safety Culture in Iowa – Phase II survey, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Transportation, shows that 55% support ATE speed enforcement on major highways, 56.4% support ATE speed enforcement on city streets and 70.8% support ATE enforcement for running red lights; and

WHEREAS, CTRE identified the pursuit of an increase in automated enforcement to reduce speeding-related crashes and other aggressive driving behaviors, such as red-light running, as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, the use of technology in law enforcement and detection allows the department to allocate officers to other areas of town for community policing needs and traffic enforcement to make the city and surrounding areas safer; and

WHEREAS, the use of ATE technology has been used successfully by officers and prosecutors as evidence in citing and prosecuting drivers involved in traffic crashes at or near these intersections; and

WHEREAS, the department is able to use the ATE equipment for locating vehicles that may be involved in Amber Alerts and other crimes that have recently occurred; and

WHEREAS, statistics show with the decline in overall violations and traffic crashes that ATE's have improved driving habits at these intersections; and

WHEREAS, statistics show that since the inception of the ATE devices in the City of Muscatine, there has been a 37% decline in personal injury crashes, a 30% decline in property damage crashes, a 32% decline in overall violations issued, and a 20% decline in overall violations issued from 2012 to 2013 alone.

WHEREAS, the City of Muscatine encourages our State Legislators to work with municipalities to improve the current ATE Legislation by providing uniformity and ensuring local control of the devices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Muscatine, Iowa, supports the use of the Automated Traffic Enforcement devices as a long-term public safety tool in the City of Muscatine.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER 2013.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MUSCATINE, IOWA

BY:

DeWayne Hopkins Mayor

ATTEST:

Gregg Mandsager, City Administrator