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## City to switch vendors for red-light camera program

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SAN DIEGO – The city of San Diego will shift vendors for its red-light camera program, taking on a new \$4.5 million contract over three years, with an option for two more years.

The City Council voted 7-0 Tuesday to make the switch to American Traffic Solutions, of Scottsdale, Ariz., following a bidding process earlier this year. The current contract expires this month.

The city embraced the photo program a decade ago, but questions over how the cameras were operated prompted a judge to dismiss more than 300 tickets. The council reinstated red-light camera enforcement in 2002; cameras are in place at 11 sites and more are planned.

Officials estimate that there has been a 62 percent drop in accidents where red-light cameras are installed. San Diego budgeted \$1.53 million in the current fiscal year for the program.

Two council members, Toni Atkins and Donna Frye, complained about the lack of promised updates to the council about the program. Councilman Tony Young said he would schedule the matter at the council's public safety committee.

– *Jennifer Vigil*

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