

WORK SESSION
JUNE 2, 2009

A Work Session of the Arcadia City Council was held on June 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Margaret Way Building at 23 North Polk Avenue. Council members attending were Fazzone, Dixon, Johnson, Goodman and Heine. Also in attendance were Administrator Rupp, Attorney Galvano and City Marshall Lee. Absent: Recorder Baumann was attending the State Finance Officer's Conference.

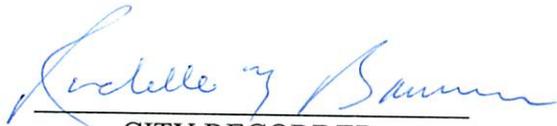
The Work Session was called to order by Mayor Fazzone who stated that the purpose of the Work Session was to receive a presentation by GATSO, a company that installs cameras on traffic lights to aid cities in issuing citations for running red lights. Marshall Lee introduced Mr. Mark Bedard, Regional Sales Manager with Gatso USA. Mr. Bedard presented the Council with a history of the company, noting that Gatso has been in business for fifty one (51) years. Mr. Bedard stated the concept of Gatso, was to work with law enforcement agencies to reduce red light running. A traffic study would be done by Gatso to discover if there was a need for the instillation of cameras at certain problem intersections. The report would then be presented to the Police Department and Council. If the study shows a need then Gatso would provide all installation and maintenance of the cameras. In addition Gatso would send out all traffic violation citations and collect the monies for fines. Mr. Bedard stated when a violation occurs a photo would be taken and then given to the Police Department for review. If the Department agrees that an infraction has occurred, the citation would be sent and the fine collected. The amount of the fine would be established by the Police Department and Council and could be increased at any time. Mr. Bedard stated there would be no cost to the City for any equipment or maintenance. He stated the only charge would be a collection fee to Gatso of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00) per collection which would be obtained by Gatso at the time the fine was collected. Mr. Bedard stated that no matter how much the fine was Gatso would only receive Thirty Dollars (\$30.00). Councilwoman Goodman asked about the maintenance of the cameras to which Mr. Bedard stated if there was a problem with a camera Gatso would have it repaired and running within twenty four (24) hours. Deputy Mayor Dixon asked again for clarification that Gatso would cover all expenses of the cameras and the maintenance to which Mr. Bedard stated that was correct. Gatso will cover the cost of instillation and maintenance of the cameras and collections of the fines at no out of pocket cost to the City of Arcadia. Mr. Bedard noted that the cameras are also used in other situations such as an Amber Alert and bank robberies. He explained the system has the capability to work with other communities where crimes have occurred and would identify a car or tag number that went through an intersection with camera coverage and would email the information to the correct agency. He stated the information on the camera could be reviewed up to five (5) days.

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Deputy Mayor Dixon stated he was aware of other cities such as Fort Myers and Cape Coral that were using cameras. He stated that he would like to see a study done and the information returned to the Council for review. Councilman Heine asked how the information provided by the cameras held up in court to which Mr. Bedard stated that in fifty one (51) years a case had never been lost. Councilman Heine then questioned if the Department of Transportation had a problem with camera installation. Mr. Bedard responded that the cameras could not be installed on the DOT right-of-way. He stated the property owner was usually contacted and installation was resolved. Councilman Johnson asked what was the most common reason was for a community not having the cameras installed to which Mr. Bedard it would be a lack of traffic. Attorney Galvano stated that a problem appeared before the Legislature in the past couple of years in regards to a privacy issue. He stated that the problem would probably continue and did not think it would be resolved anytime soon.

Attorney Galvano stated that a recommendation to move forward with a traffic survey traffic would need to be addressed in a formal motion in the Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned.



CITY RECORDER



PRESIDENT