

From: John Crompton
To: ksliving@verizon.net
Date: 9/2/2009 3:28:53 PM
Subject: Re: Red light cameras, convention center, && Arboretum

Mr. Livingston,

Thanks for the note. My comments to each of your points follow.

1) The city cannot launch a campaign in favor of a ballot issue. It is illegal to use city resources for that purpose. However, we can distribute information which lays out factual material and we will be doing that. The campaign you seek has to come from citizens using private resources. Having said that, I will be doing my best as an individual to encourage people to support the Red Light Camera program.

2) The convention center will be studied over the next year. This will include public meetings and wide solicitation of input. My position which based on their public statements is shared by most of my colleagues is that it will not be supported by any of us if any city tax dollars are involved in either its capital or operating costs.

3) Thanks for the comment on the Arboretum. It has long been under appreciated in the community. Your note will lead me to raise it with the parks department. Anything that costs money in the coming year is a non-starter because the budget is too tight, but there may be some things we can do without incurring expense.

Thanks for taking the time to write.

Best wishes

John Crompton

>>> "Ken & Susan Livingston" 08/31/09 6:13 PM >>>
Members, CS City Council

I received a telephone call yesterday regarding my opinion about the Red Light Camera matter. It was a rather lengthy survey asking how I was going to vote, my reaction to several statements regarding the cameras, etc.

Given the nature of the statements and two inquiries as to whether I might have changed my mind from my original position, I concluded that the individuals opposed to the cameras were and will be mounting a very aggressive campaign to ban the cameras.

Therefore, I encourage you and the City administration to mount a very positive and informative campaign to continue the use of the cameras to include the Battalion, local radio stations, as well as the TV and Eagle.

As you are probably aware, there is a considerable amount of data to support the use of the cameras with respect to accident reduction. I liked one of the statements made by a police official in another community that one should view the matter as a potential victim, not as a potential violator.

One of the statements read by the caller reportedly was from TTI that reported an increase in accidents when the cameras were installed. I suspect there is some data that initially an increase may occur; however, we are past initial installation and the majority of the data I have read reflects a reduction in accidents and property damage following installation.

I do believe, although some might view it as late in the process, that drivers should be reminded of the wording in the Texas Drivers Handbook with regard to coming to a stop at a red light before turning right and the traffic safety officials recommendations on distance between you and the car in front. For example, some Public Service Announcements could be used in the context of the new drivers to our community given the start of school and some may just not be familiar with Texas rules on

With respect to the proposed convention center, I was relieved to read recently that additional study may be in order before proceeding. I hope that leads to bringing the matter back before the tax payer before proceeding. I have a difficult time accepting that a vote on a project that was going to cost less than \$10 million is still a go when the cost will be four times as much.

And, finally, I am very disappointed in the lack of maintenance at the Arboretum in Bee Creek park as to that part of the Arboretum which was not affected by the work on Bee Creek. Rails on bridges have disappeared, tree limbs block former trails, the native grasses exhibit is essentially gone, identification markers for many trees no longer exist, and the "scummy " looking pond continues to look "scummy." The Arboretum was once a wonderful resource for this community and could be again with proper upkeep. Is there no school group or university organization that could assist with this project?

Your consideration of these comments will be appreciated and I do want to thank you for your individual and collective willingness to serve our community on the Council.

Sincerely,

Ken Livingston
1904 Bee Creek

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