



CITY OF GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

Public Works
Administration

633 E. Broadway, Suite 209
Glendale, CA 91206-4310
Tel. (818) 548-3900 Fax (818) 546-2207
glendaleca.gov

September 26, 2024

Mark Baker, President
Soft Lights Foundation
9450 SW Gemini Drive, PMB 44671
Beaverton, OR 97008

RE: Request for Removal of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) from City of Glendale Owned Vehicles and from Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB)

Mr. Baker:

Thank you for your letter dated July 9, 2024, regarding your request for the city to remove flashing LEDs from city owned vehicles and from RRFBs due to your clients' conditions. Additionally, it was a pleasure to speak with you regarding this request on July 23, 2024, and I appreciate the additional information that you emailed me following our conversation.

When the City of Glendale procures new vehicles, warning lights with lighting patterns are included on some emergency vehicles and public utility vehicles. This includes for public safety vehicles such as Police and Fire to alert other motorists when they are on their way to an emergency and for utility vehicles that may have to slow or stop in a traffic lane. The purpose of these lights is solely safety related and for the prevention of collisions, injury and damage.

In California, vehicle warning lights are allowed for by the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and regulated by Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. The emergency lighting patterns ordered and used by the city are required to be compliant with Title 13. Additionally, these lights are only used when allowed for under emergencies as authorized by the CVC.

Removing these emergency lighting systems from city owned vehicles threatens public safety. Uniform flashing lighting systems are used by nearly all public agencies in California and motorists here are accustomed to taking proper action when these lights are activated on emergency vehicles. We expect transitioning to a steady lighting system for city vehicles, on our own, will result in confusion, reduced motorist compliance and as a result reduced roadway safety.



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The City of Glendale incorporates the use of pedestrian-actuated RRFBs throughout the city to improve pedestrian safety at many uncontrolled crossings. Pedestrian-actuated RRFBs are an approved traffic control device for use at uncontrolled marked crosswalks in the State of California, under a blanket approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). As such, we recommend that concerns regarding the acceptability of their use on public roads should be directed to these aforementioned agencies.

Furthermore, the RRFB is a passive visual device used to increase driver awareness of pedestrians in the crosswalk and compliment the pedestrian crossing warning signs. These devices do not decrease access to the roadway or crosswalks by individuals with disabilities.

We encourage your and your clients to take advantage of the multitude of services, programs and events offered by the City of Glendale. If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to let me know. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shea Eccleston-Banwer".

Shea Eccleston-Banwer
Public Works Administrator

Cc: Manuel Cid, Glendale Police Chief
Greg Fish, Fire Chief
Daniel Hernandez, Interim Director of Public Works