Traffic camera enforcement in Lafayette could be on hold

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Lafayette city-parish government's traffic camera enforcement program could be on hold for the near future.

The contract with Redflex, the private company that managed the cameras, ended Sunday while city-parish leaders still were negotiating with a competing company to take over the enforcement program.

If city-parish government can't strike a stopgap deal with Redflex, violators caught by traffic cameras from Monday until a new contract is inked likely will not be issued citations, City-Parish Mayor-President Joel Robideaux said. He said the cameras will still snap pictures and keep tabs on violations, and citations could be issued if a provisional agreement is reached with Redflex.

Robideaux said all outstanding citations issued through June 4 are considered valid.

The hiccup in the city's decade-old traffic camera enforcement program comes after talks began last year of possibly shopping around for another company to oversee it.

City-parish government shares the traffic camera fines with the company managing the program, which has generated roughly $1 million a year for the Police Department.

But the traffic cameras have the potential to produce more revenue, and there have long been complaints about how effective Redflex has been in collecting from violators.

Since the cameras went online in 2007, more than $10 million in fines has gone uncollected, according to figures released last year by city-parish government.

Robideaux's administration solicited new proposals for managing the contract earlier this year.

"That was one of the reasons to look for a new vendor," he said. "Whatever they've figured out on how to collect is yielding better results," he said.

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Redflex submitted a proposal to continue managing the traffic camera program, but a selection committee opted instead to begin negotiations with Arizona-based American Traffic Solutions.

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Robideaux said it has yet to see

> See CAMERA, page 7A

A Redflex traffic camera stands points toward South College Road and Johnston Street on Monday.
be determined if or how the traffic camera program might change under a new contract, though he said there is interest in expanding into school zones. There is no time frame for when a new contract might be in place, assuming the City-Parish Council signs off.

Meanwhile, Redflex is trying to hang on to Lafayette's business and has filed an administrative objection to being removed from consideration for the new contract. The administrative objection is a required procedural step if Redflex plans to challenge the contract selection process in court.

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