



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: November 8, 2006

REPORT NO.: RA-06-48
RTC-06-157

ATTENTION: Honorable Chair and Members of the Redevelopment Agency
Council President and City Council
Docket of November 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System

REQUESTED ACTIONS:

- 1) Should the Redevelopment Agency and City Council make the necessary findings that the contribution of up to \$70,000 from the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area to the San Diego Police Department for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System is necessary and of benefit to the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area?
- 2) Should the Redevelopment Agency authorize the expenditure of \$70,000 in FY 2007 City Heights Redevelopment Project Area tax increment funds for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System?
- 3) Should the City accept the funds of \$70,000 for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System?
- 4) Should the Redevelopment Agency and the City enter into a Cooperation Agreement for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY:

- 1) Make the necessary findings that the contribution of up to \$70,000 from the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area to the San Diego Police Department for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System is necessary and of benefit to the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area.
- 2) Authorize the expenditure of \$70,000 in FY 2007 City Heights Redevelopment Project Area tax increment funds for Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System.
- 3) Enter into a Cooperation Agreement for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

- 1) Make the necessary findings that the contribution of up to \$70,000 from the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area to the San Diego Police Department for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System is necessary and of benefit to the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area.
- 2) Accept the funds of \$70,000 for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System.
- 3) Enter into a Cooperation Agreement for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System.

SUMMARY:

Select police departments throughout the United States have substantially reduced crime and provided a safe environment through the use of surveillance cameras. A recent program occurred in the City of Los Angeles. MacArthur Park, located in Rampart Division suffered from neglect and out of control violent crime. In January 2004, the Los Angeles Police Department entered a collaborative with local businesses and installed surveillance cameras in an attempt to control and eventually eliminate crime. After installing the cameras, homicides were reduced from 160 per year to 27, and violent crime was reduced by 63%. The cameras assisted officers in the arrest and prosecution of 400 subjects. All subjects plead guilty after viewing the video evidence.

The goal of the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System is to reduce the level of crime within the Mid-City Community. El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue are major thoroughfares within the community of City Heights. Street robberies, prostitution, commercial robberies, assaults, graffiti and gang activity are a constant crime issue to residents, business owners and visitors to City Heights. Radio calls and other priorities in the Mid-City Division of the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) do not allow an officer to constantly patrol El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue. Surveillance cameras will provide a mechanism to consistently monitor and address illegal activity on El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue. The video is to be monitored by police personnel at the Mid-City Police Station. The cameras can be remotely manipulated by the officers, allowing for 340-degree motion, zoom and zero perceptible latency (real-time information).

Two surveillance cameras have been installed and are currently operating in the park at the Urban Village. These cameras are being monitored randomly by the Mid-City Division. Since June 29, 2006, the two cameras have made or assisted in thirteen arrests. The arrests have been for marijuana possession, vandalism, robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. With less police personnel on the streets, the cameras will provide the Police Department with a proactive tool to assist in reducing the level of crime in the Mid-City area.

SDPD is seeking funding to purchase and install 31 cameras. Price Charities has agreed to purchase two cameras for the City Heights Community Recreation Center and all the base computer equipment for the entire future project. This funding will initialize the system and allow for integration into the SDPD operations. SDPD requested \$70,000 in City Heights

Redevelopment Project Area tax increment, to fund the purchase and installation of five cameras to be installed on El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue.

The San Diego Police Foundation has accepted this project and is aggressively searching for the additional funding. The San Diego Police Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that supports the efforts to improve police/community relations and awards grants to the SDPD for specialized equipment, training and program needs that are not included in City-funded budget parameters.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This action proposes to expend \$70,000 in budgeted FY 2007 City Heights Redevelopment Project Area tax increment funds for the Mid-City Crime Reduction Initiative Wireless Video Surveillance System. There is no impact to the City's General Fund.

PREVIOUS AGENCY and/or COUNCIL ACTION:

None

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:

The City Heights Redevelopment Project Area Committee recommended approval of the expenditure of up to \$70,000 of FY 2007 City Heights Redevelopment Project Area tax increment funds at their May 8, 2006 meeting.

At their October 2, 2006 meeting, the City Heights Area Planning Committee recommended that two cameras be installed on University Avenue at Swift Street and Wilson Street and three cameras be installed on El Cajon Boulevard at 33rd, 34th and 35th Streets.

The City Heights Business Association supports the installation of surveillance cameras, and will work with businesses within the district to sponsor installation of additional cameras.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Ostrye
Deputy Executive Director

William Anderson
Assistant Executive Director,
Redevelopment Agency/
Director City Planning &
Community Investment

William Lansdowne
Chief of Police
San Diego Police Department