



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

DATE ISSUED: August 27, 2008 REPORT NO. 08-125  
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
Agenda of September 3, 2008  
SUBJECT: Informational Report from the San Diego Police Department  
Regarding the Citywide Public Safety Camera Project

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

In October 2005, The San Diego Police Department was seeking to incorporate a new tool to maximize our abilities to provide a safe environment for residents, businesses, and guests of the Mid City area. The new tool was a Public Safety Camera system that would support day-to-day public safety operations as a force multiplier. Use of the system was to focus on crime reduction and improved response to major events, emergencies and Homeland Security alerts.

In October 2006, a proposal was made to install a security camera system in Belmont Park to serve as a deterrent to crime and to provide the Police Department with an additional tool to fight crime and monitor crowds for illegal activity. A sole source memorandum, designating Dotworkz – Pro Shop Group as the contractor for this project, was submitted to the City. On February 6, 2007, the San Diego City Council approved resolution R-2007-723, allocating \$45,000.00 in per capita funds from the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 to be applied toward the purchase of a security camera system. An account was established with the San Diego Police Foundation to accept private donations on behalf of this project. The foundation assumed responsibility for depositing funds in the account and insuring all expenditures were for their intended purpose.

Neighborhood crime problems such as drug dealing, street robberies, prostitution, auto thefts, car break-ins, assaults, and vandalisms have been difficult to thwart utilizing the current police tactics of random patrol. Many of the above listed crimes most certainly would not occur if the police were present. Certain areas of San Diego have a higher propensity for crime. These areas have been identified below. Responding to call for service makes it impractical to maintain a 24-hour police presence in these identified areas.

Recently, police departments around the country have experienced a reduction in crime through the use of surveillance cameras. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore and other cities have found cameras to be a deterrent to crime, a force multiplier for their public safety departments, and an invaluable evidentiary tool in proving criminal cases in court.

The San Diego Police Department continually seeks out innovative methods to better serve the public. Public Safety Camera systems have been identified by many law enforcement agencies as a tool to enhance current policing methods. Public Safety Cameras do not eliminate all crimes, but when incorporated with proven police tactics, can dramatically improve police effectiveness. The San Diego Police Department plans to actively monitor and control the cameras, and record the video feed for crime suppression and enforcement purposes. The monitoring and controlling of the cameras will occur at secure facilities.

The San Diego Police Department's Wireless Public Safety Camera System is a secure network of cameras operated by the City of San Diego. These cameras and antennas are mounted on streetlights and on privately owned buildings. The cameras transmit digital, video images over a firewall and password protected network into Police Department facilities, where the images are viewed via computers using flat-screen monitors. The cameras are not equipped with audio overhear capabilities. They can pan at 340 degrees and tilt at 115 degrees. Although used primarily to monitor wide areas of public space, the cameras have the ability to zoom in on a particular location or individual.

Only authorized San Diego Police Department employees who are properly trained in Wireless Public Safety Camera System policies and procedures shall monitor the computer feeds. The system is password protected and cannot be accessed by unauthorized personnel. The Wireless Public Safety Camera System will have varied monitoring hours. When the system is not actively being monitored, the cameras video feed will be recorded.

### BENEFITS

Police monitored security cameras offer the Police Department an opportunity to multiply their existing forces. The San Diego Police Department intends to use officers who are in a light-duty status to monitor the Public Safety Camera system; so regular patrol staffing is not negatively impacted. With police monitored cameras, one trained officer can monitor all of the areas covered by cameras and that officer can dispatch patrol officer to crimes in progress or to areas with potential criminal activity. Meanwhile, officers that would have been patrolling those areas can patrol other segments of the division. This improved allocation of limited resources should prove beneficial to business owners, patrons and to the community at large.

The cameras will allow the police to observe crimes that would normally require undercover surveillance, (e.g., loitering with intent to commit prostitution, and loitering with intent to commit drug activity), and crimes that are difficult to enforce because they are crimes of opportunity (e.g. hit and run collisions, vandalisms, street robberies).

### PARTNERSHIPS

Because video technology can be an asset to the City on multiple fronts, a commitment to collaboration between City departments is a key ingredient in the development of an integrated system that will serve the needs of San Diego for years to come. Departments including Police, Communications, Fire-Rescue, Water Department, Traffic, Lifeguards, Information Technology,

Facility Maintenance, Park and Recreation, Transportation, Metropolitan Wastewater, Environmental Services, Capital Projects and others can dedicate resources such as funding, personnel and technology from their individual disciplines and develop a system that serves the greater good. Other non-traditional partners include private organizations, San Diego State Homeland Security Regional Technology Clearing House and our Regional 3Cs Project. Recently, through a competitive procurement process, SAIC was selected as our procurement partner. SAIC brings their experience of managing large projects to the table as well as their expertise in federal and public safety agencies. SAIC has an extensive background in network management. The San Diego Police Department is looking forward to working closely with SAIC to develop and integrate the best possible Public Safety Camera system.

### EXPANSION

Expansion should be designed and built to serve the Department's Strategic Plan for implementing video technology as a crime-fighting tool citywide. Expansion should include provisions to:

- Enable commands to respond more effectively to individual community needs and crime trends occurring within their jurisdiction.
- Insure all future networks are designed and built to guarantee compatibility with existing systems. This feature will provide police personnel the option of bringing on-line individual local systems or deploying the entire network simultaneously in the case of a natural disaster or significant event impacting the City. An event of this magnitude will require the activation and deployment of significant police resources to collaborate with other City Departments and other local agencies to formulate the most appropriate response. A camera system that allows command staff to view images from throughout the impacted areas will enhance the Department's ability to manage personnel, resources and equipment.
- Deliver this technology to communities that has infrastructure identified as critical to protect and defend in conjunction with the City's overall plan to protect local and regional Homeland Security interests.
- Expand on policy and procedures for public education.
- Set futuristic goals for sustaining the system's operability.

Due to an analysis of camera locations and required infrastructure, a cost analysis is currently in progress. We are initiating camera installations at Southern Division, Southeastern Division and Phase II at Northern Division.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lansdowne  
Chief of Police



Jill Olen  
Deputy Chief Operating Officer  
Public Safety/Homeland Security