

Council Agenda Report

Date: November 28, 2016

Prepared and Submitted by: Chief Dan Dvorak



SUBJECT: Cameras for High Crime Areas

Recommendation: Recommendation from Commissioner Sydnor that Council receive a report from Staff on plans for and costs of installing cameras in high crime areas of the City (as requested by Commissioner Sydnor).

Discussion: On November 14, 2016, Council directed staff to look into the costs and logistics of installing cameras in high crime areas. Video cameras in public areas have become an increasingly common and helpful deterrent to criminal behavior. They provide valuable evidence in court and are instrumental to identifying criminal behavior. Bay Country Apartments has granted officers access to their cameras but it leaves much of Greenwood Ave, Cosby and Leonard Lane unmonitored. Last year the Police Department began researching video options and costs, which approached the \$100,000 mark. The goal is to have video available to the 911 center and to officers through computers in police vehicles. The video will not be monitored in real time, however personnel can access the feeds during a critical incident.

The surveillance video system will be scalable regardless of which process is used for installation. Cameras can be added to the system in locations with sufficient power and, in the case of city-installed cameras, adequate line of sight to a receiving antenna. The proposed recording system will accommodate up to 32 cameras and can store video for about 30 days. Cameras will be fixed, that is they will not pan, tilt and zoom. Therefore this necessitates adding four cameras to cover a four-way intersection. This provides better coverage than a pan/tilt/zoom camera.

As a pilot project, the suggested camera locations and number of cameras per location for the initial project are:

- Greenwood Ave and Park Ln (3)
- Greenwood Ave and Cosby Ave (3)
- Greenwood Ave and Camelia (4)
- Greenwood Ave and Weaver (4)
- Greenwood Ave and Cornish (2)
- Greenwood Ave and Washington (2)
- Leonard Lane and Park Lane (1)

The police department continues to look for grant opportunities but has not found any large enough to fund the project.

The Police Department and IT director discussed some options. IT is working with Bay County Security (BCS) to get prices updated prices from last year's quote. Based on the prior proposal from BCS, the costs in June 2015 were \$17,000 for a DVR server and \$6,000 per camera location. Total costs for BCS would be approximately:

Server	\$ 17,000
Greenwood Cameras (19)	\$114,000
Monthly Fee for Internet Connectivity	Unknown
Total Costs	\$131,000 + monthly fee

The IT Director, the Assistant Superintendent of Municipal Properties, and their staff can install cameras at a savings. The IT Director would be able to purchase cameras and equipment at \$840 per camera. He also would need to verify placement of cameras on Delmarva Power's poles and to provide power, which would potentially cost up to \$17,500. Staff is inquiring as to whether the City would have to pay the ongoing costs of the camera's power. The Internet connectivity would be through point-to-point wireless to City buildings already connected with fiber. The costs are estimated as follows:

Power (to hook up cameras)	\$17,500
Server	\$ 4,000
Greenwood Cameras (19)	\$15,940
Total Costs	\$37,440

The estimated staff time to build/install is approx. 2 FTE's for 20 days/each - \$8,800 est. Note that this would significantly reduce staff availability for other IT needs, but it is doable. The time would need to be stretched over about a 4 month period.

The pros of installing and maintaining the cameras in-house are:

- The costs are significantly cheaper.
- There are no monthly costs beyond potentially the costs of power to run the cameras.
- The system architecture is scalable and within control of the City.

The cons of installing and maintaining the cameras in-house are:

- The time to install would be longer due to limited personnel.
- The maintenance response time would be slower due to limited personnel.

If Council wants to cameras placed in other locations, 2 of the above locations could be dropped and 3-4 cameras placed elsewhere. Staff would have to research the cost of installation for the other locations as an added cost. Or should more than 3-4 be desired in other locations, Council would need to identify those locations and direct staff to bring back cost data.

Fiscal Impact:

The City does not have the cameras in the FY2017 budget beyond \$3,000 that was budgeted for an NVR server. Funding options:

1. The project could be included in the FY2018 budget as part of the Capital Improvement Plan as a high priority project.
2. Council can appropriate \$34,440 from the appropriated reserve balance of 97,078.
3. Council can appropriate \$34,440 from the undesignated fund balance of \$1,700,000.
4. Reduce the number of cameras to be installed now and increase them incrementally over time thus reducing the amount of money needed at the present time (\$800 per camera).
5. Seek grants.

Approved: 