

CITY OF OAKLAND

AGENDA REPORT

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2008 JUN 26, PM 4:24

To: Office of the City Administrator
Attn: Deborah Edgerly
From: Police Department
Date: July 8, 2008

Re: **An Informational Report from the Chief of Police Detailing the Department's Ability, Strategy, And Plan for the Use of Surveillance Cameras Throughout the City of Oakland, Including Partnerships With Merchants and Other Agencies**

SUMMARY

As requested by the Rules and Legislation Committee on May 22, 2008 staff has prepared this informational report detailing the Department's ability, strategy, and plan for the use of surveillance cameras throughout the City of Oakland, including partnerships with merchants and other agencies.

FISCAL IMPACT

This is an informational report and no Council action is required. Should it be determined that the Department will implement additional surveillance camera projects, staff will submit to the Council specific funding requests and fiscal implications for each of the projects. The current camera deployment costs were paid primarily by Council members, merchants, and the Redevelopment Agency.

Attached is a summary of the Department's plan (including estimated costs) to establish an electronic public safety monitoring system. Staff has not yet prepared or submitted a formal Request for Proposal (RFP) on this project; however, the preliminary estimate is approximately \$5.8 million dollars to fully initiate, and approximately \$800,000 in annual recurring costs. The estimated cost to renovate the Eastmont Station Jail into a Fusion Video Monitoring Center is approximately \$2.5 million dollars (Attachment A). The cost of the WiMax network, which is required to transmit the video, is estimated at \$3 million dollars, with recurring annual maintenance costs of \$300,000.

The Department would also need to hire 4.0 FTE Police Services Technicians (at a total annual cost of approximately \$330,189 per year) to coordinate and manage the monitoring center for this project. Currently, the Department has not identified funding for this project; however, staff is actively seeking possible grant opportunities that may be available to help fund this project.

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BACKGROUND

Law enforcement agencies across the United States have deployed surveillance cameras in public areas of their jurisdictions as part of their crime reduction strategy. Surveillance camera systems have been deployed in major metropolitan cities such as Chicago, New York, Houston, and Philadelphia. There are several cities here in the Bay Area that have also deployed camera systems including San Francisco, Pittsburg, Ripon, and San Jose. In this area, Ripon and Pittsburg are the only two Departments with fusion centers (central location where the video cameras are monitored).

In 2006, the Oakland Police Department entered into an agreement with several merchants in the Fruitvale District to access the merchants' existing security cameras through an internet connection; cameras were later deployed in other areas of the City. With this current system, community groups and merchants, as well as police staff are able to view the footage from these cameras; however, there is no organized monitoring of the system.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Upon implementation of the surveillance camera project in 2006, staff identified a number of problems that negatively impact the effectiveness of the program, which are:

- The cameras can not be controlled in real-time; there is a 10 -15 second delay due to the network.
- There is a \$50.00 monthly fee requirement for officers to be able to connect to the internet through EVDO¹ to access the camera systems from laptop computers in the field. The Department's network does not support access to a Department of Justice (DOJ) connection and the internet on the same computer, preventing field officers from connecting to the current camera system.
- The Department is not in control of the footage captured, or time frame for which the recordings are maintained, as the cameras do not belong to OPD, but the merchants. (There is no formal policy on the existing camera system). The recordings are generally captured on a single VHS tape which is erased and reused. The problem that arises from this practice is that the picture quality deteriorates after multiple usage of the tape. Since, the cameras are not deployed by the Police Department; there is no set standard for the cameras specification or quality. Staff is in the process of phasing out this type of camera system for a more effective system.

Future Plans

The Department intends to deploy a system similar to those that have been successfully deployed in other major cities as a part of its crime reduction strategy. The citywide camera system will enhance the Department's ability to respond to criminal activity and investigate crimes. The

¹EVDO – Evolution Data Optimized is a telecommunications standard for the wireless transmission of data through radio signals, typically for broadband internet access.

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