



CONSENT CALENDAR

November 14, 2006

LINDA MAIO
Councilmember
District 1

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Linda Maio

SUBJECT: Installation of Surveillance Cameras

RECOMMENDATION:

Direct the Manager to investigate installing several surveillance cameras in those City parking areas that are out of sight and where there are frequent car thefts and break-ins, to determine if this is an effective approach.

BACKGROUND:

The rate of car thefts and break-ins at the Waterfront is the highest we experience. Businesses and residents report that these are so frequent that break-ins are not even reported at the rate they actually occur. They are also concerned about violent attacks. To their dismay, the City has been unable to do anything to help. We have very little police coverage down there; it is spotty at best. The people who know the waterfront best, because they live and work there, are exasperated. Everyone recognizes that it is a big area without a resident population that often function as the "eyes and ears" of an area, and as such is a challenge to patrol. However, this situation needs to be addressed.

In meetings with various stakeholders, one approach that seemed to be worth taking is to try installation of surveillance cameras, with appropriate signage, in a few key parking lots, which are less visible and where vandalism and theft are frequent. The city parking lots directly east of Skates, obscured by shrubbery, is one of these areas, as is the parking area near the houseboats and near the hotel.

This item asks that we try a few cameras, with accompanying signage, in these areas to determine if they can act as a deterrent to the thieves who operate with impunity now. Surveillance cameras are known to act as a deterrent and could be very helpful in alleviating the distress and concerns now confronting Waterfront residents, employees, and visitors on a daily basis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

To be determined.

CONTACT PERSONS:

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