



**TO:** The Honorable Stephanie Rawlings Blake  
and Members of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 400 City Hall,  
100. N. Holiday Street  
**Attn: Karen Randle**

**FROM:** Sheryl Goldstein, Director, Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

**DATE:** March 24, 2009

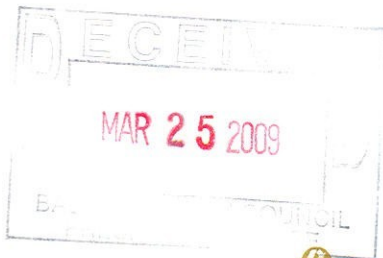
**RE:** City Council Bill No. 09-107R – Performance Measures – “Blue Light Cameras” – Crime Prevention

**City Council Bill No.:** **09-107R – Performance Measures – “Blue Light Cameras” – Crime Prevention**

In 2005, Baltimore City purchased the first twenty PODSS as well as other associated equipment at a cost of \$589,701. Each individual camera cost \$18,325.00. At the time, these cameras were state of the art technology. The other advantage of PODSS is that they are movable and can be moved from one location to another. The City purchased a total of 110 PODSS.

Overtime, the City learned that CCTV technology is preferable to the PODSS technology and moved in the direction of increasing the number of CCTV cameras while slowly phasing out PODSS. As the PODSS break or malfunction, they are not replaced. Currently, 86 PODSS remain.

Efforts are being made to phase in CCTV cameras to replace PODSS as possible. This was done in Southwest Baltimore when CCTV cameras were installed there. In addition, the City is exploring other methods to live monitor the PODSS. Alternatives include: use of wireless technology to convert the PODSS into a pan, tilt, zoom camera system; collaborating with commercial wireless providers to utilize their networks for live monitoring; and



*Comments*

investigating new movable camera technology. The City's goal is to find a cost and operationally effective alternative to the PODSS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheryl Goldstein', written over a horizontal line.

Sheryl Goldstein  
Director

Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice