

SHEILA DIXON
Mayor
250 City Hall
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

December 1, 2008

Councilman Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Chairman
Budget and Appropriations Committee
City Hall, Room 513
100 N. Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Resolution #08-0055R – Fiscal Year 2009 Budget – Release of Funds Contingent Upon Performance

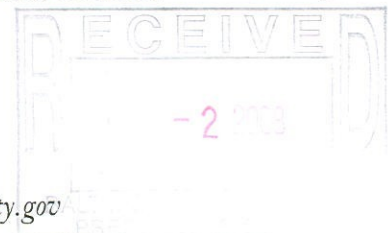
Dear Councilman Young:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update about Baltimore's Crime Camera Program. At that hearing, the Committee requested some additional information about camera locations and operability, monitoring plans for district based monitoring and WBE/MBE contract participation.

The Baltimore Police Department currently has one lieutenant and one officer assigned to "CitiWatch" located at 118 N. Howard Street. Both oversee the Crown Security contract which is in place to provide monitoring staff for the "CitiWatch" program. In the current monitoring configuration Crown Security provides 11 eight hour security guards who monitor the 480 closed circuit television cameras or CCTV cameras in the city of Baltimore each day. The cost of this monitoring contract is \$712,696 per year. The hours are based on crime and the bulk of the staffing is assigned to work in the evenings. Staffing assignments are based on crime analysis and operational request. Homeland security is also taken into consideration with regards to monitoring assignments as well as special events.

The following outlines the best practices for monitoring "CitiWatch" cameras by the Baltimore Police Department's Patrol Division. The following districts have CCTV cameras, Central, Southeast, Eastern, Northern, Northwest, Western, Southwest and

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Southern Districts. Each district maintains two work stations with the ability to monitor and view archived CCTV video with the exception of the Northern District, which has one monitoring station. Each district has trained personnel, including limited duty officers, who are assigned to monitor the cameras as necessary based on the operational needs of the District and as directed by the District Commander. Districts conduct weekly camera initiatives based on crime patterns and coordinate with "CitiWatch" for day- to-day camera monitoring. "CitiWatch" is primarily responsible for overall camera monitoring and the organizational chart for "CitiWatch" is attached to this letter. The Patrol Division does not maintain organizational charts by district related to camera monitoring.

As we discussed at the hearing, there are two types of cameras, CCTV cameras and PODSS. The CCTV cameras are live monitored and fixed. The PODSS record but are not monitored and may be moved to other locations in response to crime patterns. Each day, all cameras are checked for operability and a report is generated with operability information. (A sample report is attached for your review). Vendors are then dispatched to repair broken or inoperable cameras. As a general matter, a small number of the nearly 600 cameras are found to be not working each day and the City works quickly to repair the problem. A list of all CCTV and current PODSS locations are included for your review.

The CCTV program relies on contracts with vendors to provide monitoring and maintenance services. The City has entered contracts with Teletector of Maryland, McDean and Crown Security. I have attached a spreadsheet that provides a description of each contract and the WBE/MBE participation.

I hope this letter and attached documentation answers the questions raised at the hearing. If you require any additional information or detail, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Goldstein
Director
Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice

cc: Angela Gibson

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