

**Statement of Ald. Bob Donovan**  
**June 13, 2007**

It's extremely disappointing to me to have witnessed the defeat today of the mayor's surveillance camera initiative before the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee.

Although I am supportive of the initiative and voted in favor of it because I believe surveillance cameras have proven – especially along National Ave. in my district – that they can alter criminal behavior and make our streets safer, the financing plan brought forth for the cameras was a mess. The administration had well over a year to come up with a reasonable plan for paying for the cameras but just didn't make it happen.

I'm urging the administration to engage local businesses and the private sector for assistance with paying for the cameras, as has been done on a smaller scale in my district. Also, every type of federal and state grant that might provide critical dollars should be thoroughly investigated.

I'm hopeful that we can draw up a funding mechanism for the cameras without relying so heavily on taxpayer dollars (and certainly not \$525,000 from the Council's Contingency Fund, which is ideally used to pay for emergency items only), and that a resolution to this financing problem can be brought forth quickly.

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