

LRB-RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

ITEM 8, FILE 070132

May 17, 2007

MARY E TURK

File 070132 is a substitute resolution appropriating \$28,000 from the 2007 Common Council Contingent Fund for camera systems related to surveillance of graffiti vandalism and criminal activity.

Background

Graffiti vandalism is a public nuisance and maintenance issue that comes under the purview of the Department of Neighborhood Services. Graffiti vandalism on public and privately owned property costs the City of Milwaukee and its taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

Discussion

This resolution appropriates \$28,000 from the Common Council Contingent Fund for the purchase of up to 10 Tripwire camera systems for the surveillance of graffiti vandalism and criminal activity. These Tripwire cameras, known as intelligent surveillance systems, can detect heat and motion within a designated perimeter and within seconds capture an image of activity in the area. This image is immediately transmitted to an operations base, cell phone, vehicle or server-based e-mail where action may then be taken. Presently, DNS uses QStar cameras that take and save pictures but do not immediately alert anyone when the criminal activity is taking place. The new cameras are designed to also aid in apprehension.

Fiscal Effect

This resolution has a total one-time fiscal impact of \$28,000.

Other Information

In 2006, Municipal Court records indicate that 50 citations were issued for graffiti related vandalism: 21 to juveniles and 29 to adults.

Cc: Marianne Walsh
W. Martin Morics
Mark Nicolini
Marty Collins
Sharon Blando

Prepared by: Mary E. Turk, X8680
LRB-Research and Analysis Section
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