



**Date:** September 6, 2005

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Bonnie Lowenthal, First District *BL*  
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*  
Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RG*

**Subject:** AGENDA ITEM: Downtown Surveillance Cameras

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The City of Long Beach's top public safety priority must be adding more police officers. However, at the same time, it is important to explore and pursue other viable tools to prevent and fight crime.

As has been recently discussed by this Council, other cities have demonstrated the effective use of video cameras in public places as a deterrence and investigative tool.

On August 9, the City Council requested the City Manager and City Prosecutor for a report to the Council on the feasibility of installing surveillance devices to deter illegal activity and assist with apprehending criminals.

We would like to see this report come back to the Council as soon as possible to help prevent crime in our parks and other public spaces.

Recent incidents have prompted funding to become available to the City for cameras in the downtown area.

On August 22, 2005, the Redevelopment Agency voted to spend \$400,000 to purchase surveillance cameras in the downtown area, contingent upon the City Council agreeing to provide the resources to operate and maintain the cameras. On August 31, the Downtown Long Beach Associates agreed to contribute \$75,000 towards the operation of the cameras.

With the availability of this funding, it is important that the City Council move forward in an expeditious manner to explore this possibility.

We would like to request the City Manager to report back to the City Council with an implementation plan that would include costs to the City for the operation and maintenance of the cameras and an estimated timeline for implementation.

**Suggested Action:**

**Request the City Manager to report back to the City Council with an implementation plan for the installation and operation of surveillance cameras in the downtown area.**