





**Date:** August 9, 2005

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

**From:** Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District   
Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District 

**Subject:** **AGENDA ITEM: Feasibility Study for the Installation of Surveillance Devices**

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The City Council has maintained public safety as its number one priority. To be truly effective, a comprehensive public safety plan must involve every level of our criminal justice infrastructure. From the police officer who responds to a crime scene to the City Prosecutor in the courtroom, our law enforcement professions need to have access to the latest technology and sophisticated tools to be effective in their effort to fight crime. They also need the support of the community to step-up and assist with neighborhood watch and other programs to prevent crime or apprehend criminals. Sometimes however, even a vigilant constituency and engaged professionals are not enough to prevent crime – as the recent shootings at our parks and public places have sadly demonstrated.

We would like the City of Long Beach to identify ways to support our City Prosecutor and Police Department in their efforts to bring criminals to justice. One of the barriers to apprehending criminals has been the inability to identify the perpetrators. The tragic bombings in London demonstrated the effectiveness of surveillance devices to aid in the identification of suspects. The use of video cameras in public places may be an effective deterrence or investigative tool, especially when witnesses are not available. We would like to request that the police department and City Prosecutor work together to identify available funds for the placement of surveillance devices to deter illegal activity and assist with the apprehension of criminals in our parks and public spaces.

**Suggested Action:** **Request the City Manager and City Prosecutor for a report to the City Council on the feasibility of installing surveillance devices to deter illegal activity and assist with apprehending criminals.**