

**Date:** July 9, 2024

**To:** **Standing Committee on Public Safety**

**Name and title:** Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services / Corporate Officer

**Subject:** High Level Discussion on Downtown Security Camera Use

**Attachment(s):**

- A media release from Drew McArthur, Acting Information and Privacy Commission for British Columbia, dated February 7, 2018 titled “Use of video surveillance by local governments.”
- Office of the Information and Privacy Commission - “Public Sector Surveillance Guidelines”
- The CCTV Registration program as it appears on the City website

## Recommendation(s):

That the Committee RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated July 9, 2024 from the Manager of Legislative Services titled, ‘High Level Discussion on Downtown Security Camera Use.’

## Purpose:

For Committee information as requested by the Committee.

## Background:

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) is applicable to the City of Prince George. This means that any collection of information must be authorized under FIPPA.

Cameras (CCTV) collect personal information in the form of images. CCTV operated by the City of Prince George is regulated under the CCTV System Administrative Procedure.

The Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) is responsible for the oversight of FIPPA. The OIPC has been particularly critical of increased camera in public spaces by local governments and requires strict guidelines regarding their usage (attachment A).

The City would submit an extensive camera program to the OIPC for review, feedback and approval before undertaking any works. Previous experience has shown the OIPC would not be favourable to a substantial surveillance program (attachment B).

## CCTV Registration Program

The City of Prince George has implemented the CCTV Registration program (attachment C). This program allows private landowners to voluntarily register the location of CCTV cameras that they may have. These locations are shared with the RCMP, and the RCMP will contact those registered camera owners for information in the event of an investigation.

The City acts as a conduit to connect the RCMP with private owners, without running afoul of any of the OIPC regulations, and without opening up allegations of personal information over-collection.

Attached to the report are the following documents:

- the CCTV Registration program as it appears on the City website
- A media release from Drew McArthur, Acting Information and Privacy Commission for British Columbia, dated February 7, 2018 titled "Use of video surveillance by local governments."
- Office of the Information and Privacy Commission - "Public Sector Surveillance Guidelines"

## Summary and conclusion:

The information is provided to the committee for information.

## Respectfully submitted:

Ethan Anderson, Manager of Legislative Services

## Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: [2024/07/16]