



DOWNTOWN PRINCE GEORGE PRINCE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SECURITY CAMERA PILOT PROGRAM

September 16, 2024

PROPOSAL:

1. Background

Downtown Prince George (DPG) is the Business Improvement Association working to create a downtown that is vibrant and thriving in the heart of our community. The Prince George Chamber of Commerce (PGCOC) strives to connect, engage and enhance the quality of life in our community by providing opportunities for businesses throughout the entire community to succeed. Together, these organizations represent over 1000 businesses in Prince George.

These two organizations are also interested in working together with the support of the City of Prince George (CPG) to develop a program of enhanced security for our members. Research into the initiatives executed in other communities has introduced us to a successful program run by the Downtown Penticton Business Improvement Association since 2021. Their recent expansion with the Penticton Chamber of Commerce has inspired us to create a partnership that targets the significant issues businesses face due to theft, vandalism and harassment. The Penticton program has already demonstrated that a camera program that is actively monitored can enhance public safety and support by-law and law enforcement.

2. Program Scope

The goal of the Security Camera Pilot Program (Pilot Program) is to enhance the overall safety and security of the community by reducing theft, vandalism, and harassment through strategic surveillance and intervention. DPG and PGCOC are interested in collaborating on a Pilot Program that will support the purchase, installation and monitoring of security cameras aimed at reducing or limiting criminal activity that affects the business community. Below is a general outline of the Pilot Program components:

Administration:

- Monitor and manage the Pilot Program.

Camera Deployment:

- Conduct a needs assessment to identify high crime/vandalism areas and prioritize camera placement
- Develop a detailed implementation plan, including timelines, budget and resources allocation
- Engage stakeholders and secure necessary approvals
- Install both monitored and non-monitored cameras in identified 'hot spots' and other critical areas.

Installation & Launch:

- Contract approved vendor to procure and install surveillance cameras in designated areas.
- Test connections on local network and with contracted monitoring company.
- Provide RCMP and Bylaw with still images of camera coverage for informational purposes.

Education and Community Engagement:

- Organize educational sessions and resource-sharing initiatives.
- Foster collaboration between members, security specials, and law enforcement.

3. Partner Deliverables (City of PG, DPG, PGCOC)

We believe that all three organizations have the interest, mandate and ability to champion this project. We are requesting support, additional knowledge, expertise, and resources from the City of Prince George (CPG). Our request is to work closely with the CPG. Our proposal will require the following commitment from all three partners:

The CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE will provide:

- Grant Funding (\$40,000) towards 'hard costs' of executing the initial pilot program, including camera equipment, security monitoring services, installation and communications.
- Commitment to provide a City Liaison to reach across all City operations that will be required to support and guide the proper delivery of the pilot program.
- Commitment to provide a specific liaison from the City Bylaws department to support and guide the proper delivery of the pilot program.
- Commitment to provide a liaison from the Prince George RCMP to support and guide the proper delivery of the pilot program as well as the safety and security of the workers and our business members.

DOWNTOWN PRINCE GEORGE will take responsibility for:

- Working with businesses to support the placement of cameras.
- Working with a Security/Monitoring provider to support monitoring, communication and data collection/analysis for the pilot program.
- Overseeing and coordinating directly with our partner, PGCOC, businesses, suppliers and the City of Prince George to execute all agreed upon components of the program.
- Working with our members, partners and stakeholders to establish support and education.
- Engaging and informing Bylaws and/or the RCMP as required.
- Actively promoting and marketing the pilot program to our members and the community.
- Ensuring the procurement of the necessary contractors, equipment, materials and supplies.
- Providing warehousing for equipment and supplies
- Providing administrative space and infrastructure for the pilot program staff and contractors.
- Ensuring that there is insurance coverage for all parties that meet the requirements of the pilot program.

PRINCE GEORGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will take responsibility for:

- Working with businesses to support the placement of cameras.
- Working with a Security/Monitoring provider to support monitoring, communication and data collection/analysis for the pilot program.
- Overseeing and coordinating directly with our partner, DPG, businesses, suppliers and the City of Prince George to execute all agreed upon components of the program.
- Working with our members, partners and stakeholders to establish support and education.
- Engaging and informing Bylaws and/or the RCMP as required.
- Actively promoting and marketing the pilot program to our members and the community.
- Ensuring the procurement of the necessary contractors, equipment, materials and supplies.

4. Timelines

Once funding is approved, DPG & PGCOC will facilitate the necessary components of the program. The goal would be to have the pilot program be in full operation no later than **April 1, 2025**.

5. Funding Request

This proposal is requesting a minimum funding amount of \$40,000 from the CPG to support the purchase and installation of security cameras, engagement of a security monitoring company and communication with the businesses. Both organizations are willing to provide in-kind administrative support and engagement to effectively manage the Pilot Program.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

DPG & PGCOC will monitor the delivery of the program and will make adjustments according to service requirements and funding parameters. The first year will be considered a 'Pilot Program' and will require a full review with the CPG in order to determine the feasibility of continuation and/or change.

7. Pilot Program Budget

SECURITY CAMERA PROGRAM:

Cameras	\$25,000
Education, Communication & Signage	\$2,500
Installation	\$ 2,500
Monitoring	\$10,000
Administration & Coordination (IN-KIND)	\$10,000
TOTAL:	\$55,000

TOTAL FUNDING REQUEST: \$40,000

APPROVAL AND SUPPORT

We approve the Pilot Program as described above and authorize this joint proposal.

Name	Title	Signature
Colleen Van Mook	Executive Director, Downtown Prince George	<i>C. Van Mook</i>
Neil Godbout	Executive Director, Prince George Chamber of Commerce	<i>N. Godboat</i>