

Date: September 12 2024

To: Standing Committee on Public Safety

Name and title: Walter Babicz, City Manager

Subject: Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal

Attachments: - CCTV Registry Program Webpage
- Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal – Downtown Prince George/Prince George Chamber of Commerce

Recommendation:

- a. That the Standing Committee on Public Safety RECOMMENDS that Council RECEIVE FOR CONSIDERATION the Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal by the Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association and the Prince George Chamber of Commerce as attached to the report to the Standing Committee on Public Safety dated September 12, 2024 from the City Manager, titled “Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal”;
- b. That the Standing Committee on Public Safety REQUEST administration provide information to Council on potential funding sources, obstacles and opportunities, as well as the feasibility of using a Partnering Agreement to deliver the program in relation to the Security Camera Pilot Program as attached to the report to the Standing Committee on Public Safety dated September 12, 2024 from the City Manager, titled “Security Camera Pilot Program Proposal.”

Purpose:

For Committee consideration.

Background:

At the July 16, 2024 Standing Committee on Public Safety meeting, the committee made the following motion:

E.1 High Level Discussion on Downtown Camera Use

Moved By Councillor Polillo

Seconded By Councillor Klassen

That the Standing Committee on Public Safety DRAFTS a report to Council to discuss subsidies and financial support of the CCTV Registration Program.

Carried Unanimously

The resolution was passed by the committee in response to a report detailing the CCTV Registry program provided by the City of Prince George.

Discussion:

Proposal by Downtown Prince George and Chamber of Commerce

Downtown Prince George and the Chamber have submitted the attached proposal for the Committee to consider. It proposes establishing a Security Camera Pilot Program and requests funding from the City of Prince George.

The attachment lays out deliverables and budget for the pilot program. The proposal requests \$40,000 from the City of Prince George.

Partnering Agreement

Under s. 25 of the Community Charter, unless expressly authorized, Council may not provide a grant, benefit, advantage, or other form of assistance to a business.

Under s. 21, a municipality can enter into a partnering agreement for the provision of a service on behalf of the municipality.

Previously the City of Prince George undertook a Partnering Agreement with Downtown Prince George as part of a 'Downtown Vibrancy and Vitality Initiative'. This provided funding to Downtown Prince George, which in turn supported downtown businesses to make repairs caused by the August 22, 2023 explosion.

Administration suggests that another version of a Partnering Agreement may provide the necessary legal framework to allow for the City to support downtown businesses in connection to the Security Camera Pilot Program. This would require partnering with an organization such as Downtown Prince George and the Chamber of Commerce.

If the committee wishes to forward the proposal to Council for consideration, staff will continue to research viable ways for the City to undertake the program, of which a Partnering Agreement may be just one.

Ongoing Research and Feasibility of the Proposal

The importance of Prince George's downtown core to the city and the region as a centre for business, shopping, dining, and entertainment is reliant on its vibrancy and vitality. Council proceeding with the initiative described would support its strategic priorities and help promote the downtown as

welcoming, safe, and attractive for residents, visitors and those that live and work downtown, and would support our local economy.

Conversations with the RCMP on the utility of such a program, and with those familiar with a similar program in Penticton are ongoing. Grant funding opportunities are also being researched.

Within such a program the opportunity to incentivize those with existing CCTV systems that have not registered to join the CCTV Registry Program could also be explored.

As the attached Security Cameral Pilot Program Proposal was received on the same day that the committee meeting agenda needed to be published, Administration has not had sufficient time to explore the proposal to ensure feasibility, or adherence to legislation and other applicable processes. Administration would continue to research the proposal with the idea that if forwarded to Council for consideration, administration would provide any additional details required to execute the program. The recommendation above highlights that Administration would provide those details to Council at the time the committee's report was advanced to Council for consideration.

Summary and conclusion:

This report is provided for committee consideration. A recommendation to Council on the establishment of a program and partnership around security cameras is proposed based on conversation at previous committee meetings and the submitted proposal from Downtown Prince George and the Chamber of Commerce.

Respectfully submitted:

Walter Babicz

Meeting Date: 24 September 2024