

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

4. CCTV Cameras for the Purpose of Public Safety and Deterring and Solving Violent Crime

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. Many large cities worldwide, including London and New York, utilize CCTV cameras as a means of surveillance to help deter and solve violent crimes;
2. Technology has advanced in the United Kingdom, and the Metropolitan Police have moved beyond CCTV cameras by implementing Facial Recognition technology. The Metropolitan police have stated, "Facial Recognition (FR) technology can be used in a number of ways by the Met, including to prevent and detect crime, find wanted criminals, safeguard vulnerable people, and to protect people from harm.";
3. Washington, New York and Orlando are among the cities in the United States of America piloting and implementing Facial Recognition technology;
4. During the 2010 Olympics, CCTV cameras were installed and recorded in specific public areas. These cameras and their footage helped maintain public safety and solve violent crime in the City of Vancouver.

For example, CCTV footage helped bring justice to a violent crime committed on Granville Street during the 2010 Olympics when a man attacked a stranger, slashing his throat with a box cutter;

5. Smartphones equipped with video recording are common, and in many countries, including Canada, there are no laws precluding people from filming people in public spaces;
6. Expanding CCTV cameras in public spaces in the City of Vancouver was debated by Vancouver City Council in 2018. However, violent crime has since increased;
7. The City of Vancouver currently uses public safety cameras to 'support public safety operations during planned events like the Celebration of Lights and assist first responders during emergencies.' The City of Vancouver website includes maps with the locations of these cameras; and
8. Privately owned and installed CCTV cameras have assisted police in investigations to solve crimes. However, the coverage of these cameras cannot be relied on for consistency or coverage city-wide.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to engage the Vancouver Police Department and determine critical areas where CCTV cameras could be installed in public, yet not monitored live, to deter violent crime and collect evidence to help solve violent crime;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council in Q3 2022 with recommendations, including recommendations to fund CCTV cameras, to prioritize public safety.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to engage the Vancouver Police Department and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment;

FURTHER that staff work with the Vancouver Police Department to develop a strategy to educate property owners, businesses and residents about the value of using CCTV cameras to deter crime and help solve incidents of violent crime occurring in the City of Vancouver and report back to Council with an update by Q3 2022.

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REFERENCES:

1. Facial Recognition
Metropolitan Police
<https://www.met.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fr/facial-recognition>
2. Throat Slashing Victim Left With Disappointment
Global News
<https://globalnews.ca/news/158667/throat-slashing-victim-left-with-disappointment/>
3. Vancouver Councillor seeks changes, even cameras, on Granville Strip
Vancouver Sun
<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/crime/vancouver-councillor-seeks-changes-even-cameras-on-granville-strip>
4. Public Safety Cameras
City of Vancouver
<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/public-safety-cameras.aspx>
5. Security Camera catches Vancouver Senior robbed in distraction theft
Global News
<https://globalnews.ca/news/7372157/security-camera-senior-distraction-theft/>