



City Clerk
440 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Telephone (831) 899-6707

December 31, 2014

Honorable Marla O. Anderson
240 Church Street
Salinas, CA 93901



RE: 2014 MONTEREY COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Judge Anderson,

The 2014 Monterey County Grand Jury's Final Report requires the City of Seaside to respond to the following:

FINDINGS:

F1. "The City of Seaside received an anonymous donation of \$100,000 to help with the purchase of eight cameras and set up of the eight cameras to help fight crime and help in the investigations of public safety."

Response F1: The respondent agrees partially with the finding. The number of cameras should be approximately twenty.

F2. "The incoming video would not be continually and would only be viewed when it was found that an incident had occurred in that area earlier. After 30 days the video in each area would be purged if not needed. The video feeds would go to a dedicated central server in the Police station."

Response F2: The respondent agrees partially with the finding. The server is not a "central server." It is a dedicated server, specific to and only for the STEMA Cameras.

F3. "The annual maintenance cost will run approximately \$5,000 and will be absorbed in the Police Department Budget."

Response F3: The respondent agrees with the finding.

F4. "The imagery is searchable by date, time & location. No information is collected on individuals; it only captures systemic movement & general pictures of an area."

Response F4: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F5. "The Camera strategic locations throughout the City would be at the direction and approval of the Chief of Police."

Response F5: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F6. "In any location where the view of any camera may compromise a citizen's privacy expectation, the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall review the cameras location and either make a recommendation to relocate the unit, or if not eliminate the potential for video intrusion."

Response F6: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F7. "A citizen liaison committee will be established. This committee will periodically review the surveillance logs of usage every three months and provide a report to the City Council and the Community."

Response F7: The respondent agrees with the finding.

- F8. "Similar camera programs are in several cities in California, Gardena 125 cameras, Redlands 130, Long Beach over 400, and Los Angeles more than 370. It is reported that after the installation of these cameras, crime decreased."

Response F8: No finding required.

- F9. "It has been reported that four or five cameras will be installed within the City by July 1, 2014."

Response F9: The respondent agrees with the finding. While four cameras have been installed, due to technical issues, they are not yet functioning properly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. "The STEMA Program should be implemented to help in the area of public safety for the Seaside citizens."

Response R1: The recommendation has been implemented.

- R2. "The annual maintenance cost should be included in the regular Police budget that is approved by the Seaside City Council every year, for the program to be a success."

Response R2: The recommendation will be implemented in the FY 15/16 budget process.

- R3. "When a citizen voices his/her concern for their privacy, this should also be reviewed by the City Manager, the citizen committee, and the results should be made public."

Response R3: The recommendation requires further analysis. The citizen with the concern may not want their issue publicized.

R4. "The citizen committee should be comprised of five members, a member of the City Council, a police officer, and three citizens appointed by the Mayor."

Response R4: The recommendation should not be implemented. The committee has been selected by the Council with five community members/business owners invited to sit on the committee.

R5. "The citizen committee should be empowered to recommend areas for camera placement. Such recommendations would be approved through the City Manager and Police Chief."

Response R5: The recommendation should not be implemented. Camera location should be predicated on where crime is occurring, based on a proper analysis. Also, the location should remain confidential for optimum results and to avoid the cameras being intentionally damaged.

The City Council approved the above response at the July 17th, 2014 City Council Regular Meeting.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Regards,


John Dunn
City Manager

c/ Seaside City Council