

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 130571)

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Committee on Public Safety to hold hearings to determine the status of City's current public safety video surveillance camera program, and to explore what best practices in public safety video surveillance may be employed to enhance efforts to reduce crime and promote safety in the City of Philadelphia.

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia currently ranks high amongst major cities in a number of criminal activity statistics; and

WHEREAS, Certain areas in Philadelphia have gained reputations as "hot-beds" for criminal activity, including open air drug markets, public gun violence, and gang warfare; and

WHEREAS, Such activity significantly compromises the safety and welfare of residents who dwell or work in those areas; and

WHEREAS, The use of video surveillance cameras has become one of the nation's most popular and economical ways to fight crime; and

WHEREAS, A number of major municipalities, having experienced similar public safety issues, including New York, Baltimore, and more recently Chicago, have employed video surveillance camera technology in their efforts to combat crime and promote the safety of citizens; and

WHEREAS, According to published statistics the use of video surveillance cameras in New York has contributed to up to a 40 percent drop in crime in certain areas, and Baltimore officials point to a 25 percent drop in crime in areas covered by cameras; and

WHEREAS, The use of video surveillance cameras by those municipalities has contributed greatly to the peace of mind of residents by providing a feeling of security for citizens, and has even been requested by residents of those municipalities; and

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WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia in 2007 initiated a public safety video surveillance program, which has not been significantly expanded since that time; and

WHEREAS, It has been determined that many of the cameras from the initial deployment have been found to be inoperable; and

WHEREAS, Since the City's initial deployment of cameras, there have been several technological advances in the field that many cities are utilizing to enhance their programs in this regard; and

WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia can benefit from an expansion of the public safety video surveillance cameras, as well as by incorporating newer technological in this regard to help combat crime and promote public safety; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Council of the City of Philadelphia, that the Committee on Public Safety be authorized to hold hearings to determine the status of City's current public safety video surveillance camera program, and to explore what best practices in public safety video surveillance may be employed to enhance efforts to reduce crime and promote safety in the City of Philadelphia.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twentieth day of June, 2013.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Jones for Council President Clarke

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