

Offered by Councilor Rob Consalvo



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIGITAL VANDALISM DETERRENT TECHNOLOGY

- WHEREAS*, While neighborhood safety and quality of life issues remain a top priority of this body, the City of Boston must take more aggressive action to not only reduce crime and limit vandalism, but also work to eradicate these nuisances and urban blight through new technology; and,
- WHEREAS*, According to a survey conducted by The Nograp Network Inc., U.S. cities spend over \$12 billion dollars on graffiti abatement alone; and,
- WHEREAS*, While the City of Boston does utilize 3 cameras to address illegal dumping, we must invest in new technology, such as **Q-Star**, **FlashCam Technology**, as a strategy to better deter criminal activities, including vandalism, graffiti and trash dumping; and,
- WHEREAS*, This type of portable, wireless technology works by installing and programming a camera in an area know for being a hot spot for illegal dumping, excessive graffiti or vandalism. During scheduled times of surveillance when motion is detected a bright light flashes, an optional recorded message booms out informing the intruder of their crime and an image is captured. Systems are solar-powered, have no hard-wiring, downloads wirelessly and function in daytime and/or night time; and,
- WHEREAS*, This technology has the ability to reduce urban blight by catching predators in the act of graffiti, construction site theft, trash dumpers and general vandalism by taking high-resolution, prosecution-worthy photographs; and,
- WHEREAS*, Thousands of digital crime deterrent technologies have been installed in cities across the nation in an effort to limit illegal activities, such as graffiti, dumping, etc.; and,
- WHEREAS*, Several major cities across the U.S. use this technology, including: New York City (all five boroughs), Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Dallas-Fort Worth, Las Vegas, Denver, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Hartford and Providence to name a few; and,
- WHEREAS*, According to the Los Angeles Police Department, three cameras installed in 2007 led to an 85% reduction in graffiti at those high-crime locations in the following year; and,
- WHEREAS*, This cost-effective technology can actually save money by reducing graffiti removal, maintenance/repairs of City property, replacing equipment, the cleaning up at taxpayer

expense of illegal dumping and the costs associated with its removal; *NOW
THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the purchase, installation, rotation and utilization of vandalism deterrent technology to protect property and reduce costs throughout the City of Boston.

Filed on: Friday, November 13, 2009