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TO: Members of the Committee of the Whole

**FROM: Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board
Chair Nancy Martin and Chief of Police, Murray Rodd**

REPORT DATE: June 20, 2011

**SUBJECT: Report POL11-001
Request for City Council to support the implementation of a
Closed Circuit TV (CCTV) system in the downtown core.**

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Mayor Bennett and Members of Peterborough City Council of the need to increase the number of CCTV cameras in the downtown core of Peterborough furthermore, to request support from the City of Peterborough to move forward with this proposal.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report POL11-001 dated June 20, 2011, of the Police Services Board Chair and Chief of Police, as follows:

That Members of Peterborough City Council support an application made by the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service to the Civil Remedies Grant Program for a minimum of \$150,000.00 for the purchase and installation of CCTV cameras in order to increase the number of cameras in the downtown core.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This CCTV proposal would see a minimum of 12 cameras installed at identified locations in the downtown Peterborough. High-quality re-deployable cameras, capable

of being stationary or point, tilt, zoom with video analytic technology are approximately \$12,000.00 each, including installation. There would also be other engineering services required which would bring the grant application to approximately \$150,000.00. It is hoped that with the support of the Police Services Board and City Council we will be able to obtain funding through the Civil Remedies Grant Program in order to get this program started. Once operational, the program would be supported through a joint effort of the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service, the City of Peterborough and the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area (DBIA). The wireless system being proposed has very minimal operating and maintenance expenses. Based on similar systems being utilized in other jurisdictions it is anticipated that yearly costs for the proposed system will not exceed \$5000.00. This would include operation, maintenance and a yearly licensing fee for a secure wireless frequency. The DBIA has expressed a willingness to share in these annual operating expenses.

BUSINESS PLAN REFERENCE

Strategic Direction: To continue to develop Crime Prevention Initiatives.

Goal 3: To investigate the viability and effectiveness of an increased number of security cameras, through business and other community partnerships.

BACKGROUND

In December 2009, Staff Sergeant Dan Smith attended the Senior Police Administration Course (SPAC) at the Canadian Police College. Staff Sergeant Smith prepared a Business Case concerning the need to increase the number of CCTV cameras in the downtown core of Peterborough.

The key purpose of the Peterborough Downtown CCTV Program is to promote public safety in the downtown of the City of Peterborough.

The goals of the Peterborough Downtown CCTV Program are:

- to contribute to the safe environment of the downtown;
- to assist as one of the components of downtown revitalization; and,
- to improve the ability of the Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service and community to respond to crime and antisocial behavior occurring in Peterborough's downtown.

The objectives of the Peterborough Downtown CCTV Program are:

- to deter crime and anti-social behavior;
- to improve police reaction to crime through enhanced monitoring and detection of crimes;
- to increase the perception of safety; and,

- to use camera recording as evidence to identify suspects involved in criminal activities.

It has been determined that more and more Police Services in Ontario are utilizing CCTV systems in conjunction with existing crime prevention initiatives. These programs have proven to be highly successful in deterring crime, reducing victimization and assisting in solving serious crimes. Most recently the municipalities of Belleville, Cornwall and Cobourg installed CCTV systems. Other successful systems in Ontario include; Sudbury (1996), London (2000) and Toronto (2007).

As evidenced by the Fleming Data Research Community Satisfaction Survey, there are still many people (54%) who have a perception that downtown Peterborough is unsafe. These people look to the police to explore various strategies to reduce crime. Research indicates that people have high expectations of the CCTV cameras in relation to their effectiveness in reducing crime and identifying offenders, and are generally willing to support the CCTV. However, it must be made very clear that the cameras are not a replacement for the physical presence of police officers in their neighbourhoods or other community based policing strategies.

It is highly likely that certain crimes committed in the downtown core may have been solved sooner and more cost effectively if CCTV had been in place. These crimes include homicide, sexual assaults, robberies, assaults and mischief to property. CCTV would also be beneficial in determining that an allegation is unfounded, thereby preventing a long and costly investigation.

The findings of research on CCTV are that it is time for the City of Peterborough to implement a CCTV system in the downtown core to supplement the existing open-space cameras. This proposal was originally turned down in 2005 due to pressure from the Stop the Cameras Coalition who believed that cameras would violate privacy rights. The Information and Privacy Commission has provided strict guidelines to alleviate privacy concerns and this is no longer an issue.

Research shows that people are willing to support the appropriate deployment of CCTV as an additional policing tool, provided proper public notice is made of the locations of the cameras and, reasonable efforts are made to mitigate any privacy impacts. The City of Peterborough currently has a policy in place to deal with the use of CCTV cameras. With some minor revisions, this policy could easily be adopted for use with an expanded CCTV camera system.

The implementation of a CCTV system could potentially reduce the amount of time required to solve a serious crime, ultimately allowing officers to be out in the community conducting pro-active duties, managing calls for service and performing other crime prevention initiatives.

Recent consultation with the City Traffic Department, Peterborough Utility Services (PUS) and Peterborough Technology Services (PTS) indicate that existing infrastructure in the downtown core is in place to support this type of initiative, and use of existing city

owned traffic poles at identified locations would be a viable option for the wireless system being proposed. Willingness has also been expressed from numerous business owners to become a host for cameras on their buildings. There are many connectivity options available that will allow us to utilize existing partnerships, ensuring cost efficiencies.

This is not intended to be a live monitored system but rather a storage and retrieval type of system. However the capability exists to live monitor in exceptional circumstances. There will be a very specific and short-term retention period that would meet the needs of an investigation and at the same time satisfy the citizens of Peterborough that images would not be retained or viewed unless required for a particular investigation. The CCTV data storage system would be housed at police headquarters and would remain under strict limited access by only authorized persons.

Use of CCTV is not a replacement for frontline police officers; it is a valuable tool to assist in effectiveness. Community safety is not the sole responsibility of the Police Service; it is the responsibility of all key stakeholders, and this includes using all available technology and resources to combat crime and disorder. Used in conjunction with dedicated police presence and proper placement of signage, CCTV could be an integral part of the downtown revitalization.

SUMMARY

The role of police officers has evolved over the past several years and it has become increasingly challenging for officers to combat crime and public disorder. We must provide the latest technology to assist in this endeavour, in order to ensure that our community is a safe and enjoyable place where we can live, work, play and carry out lawful activities in peace and harmony. The City of Peterborough must be willing to afford the citizens of Peterborough the same amount of protection that it does with its own interests.

The Peterborough Lakefield Police Services Board and the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Area support this initiative, therefore we now look to the City of Peterborough to support this proposal in order that we can move forward and take advantage of funding opportunities such as the Civil Remedies Grant Program.

Submitted by: Murray Rodd, Chief of Police

APPENDIX A: Letters of Support

Appendix A



*Mrs. Nancy Martin, Chair Mr. R. Kenneth Armstrong, Vice-Chair Mayor Daryl Bennett
Reeve Mary Smith Robert Lightbody*

May 9, 2011

Mayor Bennett and Members of City Council
City Hall
500 George Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9H 3R9

Dear Mayor Bennett

Further to the letter dated April 14th from the Police Services Board with respect to the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Cameras, please find enclosed a detailed report from Chief Rodd on the need to increase the number of CCTV cameras in the downtown core of Peterborough.

We are asking for council's support with this initiative so we can move forward to look at possible funding options, including the Civil Remedies Grant Program.

Should you or any members of council have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you

Nancy Martin

Nancy Martin, Chair



CHIEF'S OFFICE

MAY 31 2011

Peterborough Lakefield
Community Police Service



May 30, 2011

Delivered by hand.

Mayor Daryl Bennett
And Members of Council
Corporation of the City of Peterborough
500 George St. N.
Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9


Your Worship:

**Re: Security Cameras
Recommendation POL 11-001**

On behalf of the Board of Management of Peterborough's **Downtown Business Improvement Area** and our nearly 600 members, this letter serves as our request that our City Council support the Security Camera Recommendation. Along with the **Peterborough Lakefield Community Police Service**, the **DBIA Board of Management** unanimously approves the Recommendation and we believe that this initiative is a positive addition to the vitality of our downtown environment. The Security Camera Recommendation is another visible sign that our City Council is committed to improving our downtown, adding to such programs as increased police foot patrols and the upcoming Central Area Community Improvement Plan.

We support the addition of 12 Security Cameras, to be installed with funding provided in large part by the Civil Remedies Grant Program; essentially, our City will enjoy a windfall improving the quality of life and business downtown. As you know, investment in our downtown is an investment in our whole City. A strong, vital downtown reflects the great health and strength of our community.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at 705-749-8707 or via email at kow@allstream.net

Sincerely, 

Dave Madill
Board Chair
Downtown Business Improvement Area