



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the General Committee**

From: **Richard Freymond, Commissioner of Corporate and Legislative Services**

Meeting Date: **June 12, 2023**

Subject: **Community Safety - CCTV Project - Peterborough Police Services, Report CLSFS23-032**

Purpose

A report to inform Council of the Peterborough Police Service (PPS) Community Safety – CCTV project and seek approval to install the cameras in various locations in the City's downtown.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CLSFS23-032, dated June 12, 2023 of the Commissioner of Corporate and Legislative Services as follows:

- a) That the information from the Peterborough Police Services Board for the Community Safety – CCTV project attached as Appendix A, be received for information; and
- b) That Council approve the installation of cameras on City infrastructure at various locations in the City's downtown core as shown on the map attached in Appendix A to Report CLSFS23-032 subject to a favourable determination of the Privacy Impact Assessment referred to in Appendix A to Report CLSFS23-032 as determined by the Commissioner, Corporate and Legislative Services.
- c) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute documents to give effect to recommendation b) on terms acceptable to the Commissioner of Corporate and Legislative Services and in forms acceptable to the City Solicitor.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no additional budget and financial implications related to the recommendations. The cameras will be PPS maintained and all access to and storage of video will be managed by the PPS.

Background

On May 2, 2023 the Members of the PPS Board approved a Report from the Services IT Manager on the Community Safety CCTV Project (Attached as Appendix A).

The PPS applied for the Ontario CCTV Grant Program, and the Service has been successful in its grant application for a Community Safety CCTV project. The Service received a total of \$185,505 for this initiative. The project will result in a series of closed circuit cameras being installed on City infrastructure in the downtown core of Peterborough in areas that have been identified as having higher crime and anti-social behaviour.

A preliminary map has been created with cameras being installed down George Street and up Aylmer Street at almost each intersection. The new solution has left room for more cameras to be installed and Water Street is being considered, along with some access and egress points of the city.

The City's Infrastructure and Planning Services Department has requested a Council Report be provided and accepted before they will proceed and allow PPS installers access to the required poles.

As indicated in the Report, a Privacy Impact Assessment has begun, however, as cameras are ubiquitous, the locations are in public places, signage will be deployed, and the video is only being passively monitored, no issues are anticipated regarding privacy.

Chief Betts will be in attendance to answer any questions that Council may have.

Submitted by,

Richard Freymond
Commissioner of Corporate and Legislative Services

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Attachment:

Appendix A – Peterborough Police Services Board Report – Community Safety CCTV Project



Peterborough Police Services Board - **Board Report**

Public Session

To: Members of the Peterborough Police Services Board
From: Paul Notman, IT Manager

Report Date: April 24, 2023
Meeting Date: May 2, 2023
Subject: Community Safety CCTV Project

Purpose

To provide the Board an update on the status of the Community Safety CCTV project, which aims to act as a deterrent to violent crime and anti-social behavior in the downtown core and to act as a force multiplier for the police service, through passive surveillance that is highly visible and accessed after the fact, if required.

Recommendation

That the Board approve the recommendation outlined in this report, as follows:

1. That the Board approves the installation of 12 CCTV cameras located in the downtown core of the City of Peterborough utilizing the grant monies provided by the Province. See map provided for locations; and
2. That the Board direct the Chief of Police to cause notice to be made to City Council of the same, so installation on City owned infrastructure can begin.

Strength Impact

N/A

Budget and Financial Implications

The Peterborough Police Service applied for the Ontario CCTV Grant Program, and the Service has been successful in its grant application for a Community Safety CCTV project. The Service received a total of \$185,505 for this initiative. This may be the last CCTV grant available to municipalities, and the Service is committed to implementing this program to improve community safety.

The original design changed after consultation with community partners and city departments, pivoting to a more robust and affordable LTE Data solution for network connectivity which will significantly reduce the proposed data costs to the service and increase reliability, functionality, and security.

Currently the data costs are between \$25 - \$60 a month depending on usage, per site. That works out to a maximum of \$8,640 annually, funds that may be recouped through grants or possibly other avenues of funding.

Background

The Community Safety CCTV Program – A series of closed circuit cameras installed in the downtown core of Peterborough in areas that have been identified as having higher crime and anti-social behaviour. This is a Situational Crime Prevention and Opportunity Reduction initiative, reducing the opportunity to commit crime in a particular time and place through visible and conspicuous passive video surveillance cameras. The Community Safety CCTV Program will initially be implemented in an area of the downtown core of Peterborough where crime and anti-social behaviour have been identified as being higher than other areas of the city. The initial area of installation would involve intersections along George Street and Aylmer Street that have been identified by our Crime Analysts as high priority locations.

The Second goal of the Peterborough Police Service 2020 – 2023 Strategic Plan is “Our commitment to managing information and investigative solutions using current and emerging technology.” The implementation of the CCTV program will address that goal. The First goal of the same plan relates to Community Safety and Wellbeing, which the project also addresses.

Downtown Peterborough is unlike other areas of the city in that it is a busy place almost 24 hours a day. There are retail and commercial operations in the daytime and bars, restaurants and entertainment venues in the evenings. There are over 2,000 people living and 5,000 working in the downtown core. Downtown Peterborough has over 60 bars and restaurants all located near each other. While these bars and restaurants are significant contributors to our local economy there are also some attendant issues. Specifically, there are six “night clubs” which have a combined seating capacity of thousands of people.

Over the last two decades, several initiatives have been implemented to address the significant amount of anti-social behaviour in the downtown core. While many of these

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initiatives have had some positive effects the trend has not changed over the last several years and continues despite the initiatives that have been previously implemented.

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 which have proven to be very successful. Other successful systems in Ontario include Sudbury (1996), London (2000) and Toronto (2007).

Short Term Outcomes and Benefits

Many citizens feel unsafe in downtown Peterborough at night, (54%) as evidenced by the Fleming Data Research. 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 neighborhoods or other community-based policing strategies. It must also be clear that this is a passive monitoring system where the video is only captured with intent and not actively monitored.

A well-designed and operated CCTV system in downtown Peterborough is not a solution to all criminal and antisocial behaviour issues. It is; however, a cost effective and reasonable response to crime in the downtown core. The responsible use of video recording technology is not a replacement for Police Services; it is a valuable tool to assist their effectiveness. 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.

Long Term Outcomes and Benefits

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

The goals of the Community Safety 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 Police Service and community to respond to crime and antisocial behaviour occurring in Peterborough's downtown.

The objectives of the Community Safety CCTV Program are:

- to deter crime and anti-social behaviour;
- to improve police reaction to crime through enhanced investigation of crimes;
- to increase the perception of safety; and
- to use camera recording as evidence to identify suspects involved in criminal activities.

The Community Safety CCTV system will allow the Peterborough Police Service to gather evidence, observe and analyze activity in specific areas downtown in order to deal with quality-of-life problems such as public intoxication, vandalism, drug trafficking, mischief to property, in addition to the more serious crimes of assault, robbery and homicides. It is expected that unlawful activities in the monitored areas will be reduced and that there will be an increased perception of safety. Clearance and apprehension rates are expected to increase for crimes committed in these areas. Over time, these impacts will enhance the value of the downtown area in the community.

Activities

In the last several years there have been many high-profile crimes committed in the downtown core that 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.

Research shows that people are willing to support the appropriate deployment of CCTV as an additional policing tool, provided 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 a Community Safety CCTV camera system put in place with assistance from this grant. A consultation process took place in October 2022, with the DBIA and key stakeholders to determine the priority locations for the initial camera installations.

With respect to civil liberties, and freedom of information and privacy concerns, appropriate checks and balances must be part of the implementation plan for this option. At the very least the following measures are necessary to ensure that individual rights are respected:

- ongoing consultation with the community and identified stakeholders will monitor the necessity and acceptability of CCTV,
- strict procedures around who can access the video and for what purpose;
- conspicuous signage that discloses the location and use of the system, to be paid for with the available grant funds;
- an accountable Steering Committee, comprised of a Senior Ranking member of the PPS, a Board Member, and key community and business stakeholders;
- periodic audits and,
- ongoing assessments of the impact on privacy will be carried out and reported, , annually to the Board.

It is clear from research on CCTV programs around the world that community consultation before, during and after helps address issues and concerns that may exist, informs people of the intention and scope of the project, and promotes a high level of awareness of the CCTV cameras, which can increase effectiveness and acceptance of the project.

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The media in Peterborough will be a valuable outlet for communication of information related to the progress and implementation of the CCTV program. The media will also be advised of the ongoing CCTV initiative and timely releases will be made on the successes of CCTV if it does not jeopardize the integrity of an investigation or privacy interest of a citizen. This will enable community members and key stakeholders to see the measurable outcomes of CCTV on a continuous basis in a timely manner. These outcomes must also be reported to the province as a condition of the grant in accordance with their established reporting structure.

The IT Manager, Paul Notman, provided an update to the Board regarding the status of the CCTV grant program on October 11th, 2022. The Service was awaiting information from the City regarding connectivity issues and was engaging in community consultations to identify camera locations.

On October 12th, members of the Service met with some identified community partners to discuss the program and hear their concerns. The response over all was positive and one concern regarding locations was addressed. Conversations have also been had with the DBIA and the project has received their full support. In conversations with various shop owners in the downtown, the response has also been overwhelmingly supportive of this initiative.

A preliminary map has been created with cameras being installed down George Street and up Aylmer Street at almost each intersection. The new solution has left room for more cameras to be installed and Water Street is being considered, along with some access and egress points of the city.

The City's Infrastructure and Planning Services Department has requested a Council Report be provided and accepted before they will proceed and allow PPS installers access to the required poles.

Planning and research has begun a PIA (Privacy Impact Assessment), but as cameras are ubiquitous, the locations are in public places, signage will be deployed, and the video is only being passively monitored we don't anticipate any issues regarding privacy.

Evaluation

The success of the implementation of a Community Safety CCTV system will be identified through a number of key indicators that won't be analyzed until after the first evaluation period. It will hopefully show the DBIA and the citizens of Peterborough that crime and disorderly conduct in our city will not be tolerated and that we are prepared to take significant measures to identify and prosecute offenders. This will be shown in feedback received during the initial set-up period. Secondly, this initiative will be audited to highlight any change in actual crime statistics and any charges laid that can be directly attributed to the use of CCTV.

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.

Summary

The Community Safety CCTV project is a priority for the Peterborough Police Service, and the Service is committed to improving community safety through the implementation of this program. The Service will continue to engage in consultations with the City and community to ensure a successful and cost-effective project. Once the issues outlined above have been addressed, PPS is prepared to move forward with installation this Spring/Summer so all resources are in place and operational for the summer of 2023.

Nothing in this program precludes temporary installation of cameras and signage, where appropriate, when a large presence of people or potential disruption may occur.

The determination of the best placement for cameras, including continuing or expanding upon the program, will form part of the ongoing assessment.

Prepared by: Paul Notman

Reviewed by: Stu Betts, Chief of Police

Attachment: Map of camera locations

Appendix A

