

# Council Study Session

June 3, 2019

<b>Agenda Item</b>	Cameras Discussion	
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<b>Item Type</b>	Requested by Council <input type="checkbox"/> Update <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Request for Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation	

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this study session is to begin a dialogue with and amongst the City Council on the use and parameters of use of cameras in public spaces. Currently, a camera is being used for security and to allow the public to, in an ongoing fashion to watch activities in public spaces at the skate park. There has been discussion about the placement and use of other cameras, yet the City has no policy on cameras.

## **POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED**

Goal 2: Analyze City departments/programs to gain efficiencies, reduce costs and improve services

Goal 3: Enhance and improve transparency and communication

## **BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Currently Ashland Parks and Recreation department utilizes a camera at the skate park. The goal of the camera is twofold: 1) to allow the public that wants to watch activities at the skate park to do so (primarily parents); and 2) to enhance security. The camera has been operable for 2 months. Due to short amount of time it has been operable it is unclear the security effect it is having. Cameras have also been used by the City during the 4th of July festivities at the Band Shell in Lithia Park so that people who are not able to join in physically can view the event from their homes. In addition, staff has been asked about installing cameras for security purposes. For example, staff was asked to place a camera in the Pioneer parking lot and there has been talk about installing cameras to create a more secure environment around public art. Staff would like to create a camera policy to guide and regulate the use of cameras.

## **FISCAL IMPACTS**

Each site would have differing costs for the initial capital outlay of cameras, mounting devices and the cost to establish a wireless communication bridge. Staff has received the initial estimate for the Pioneer Parking lot which is just under \$12,000. This is likely to be an average cost for camera installation. In addition, there will be camera maintenance and replacement, but it is expected those costs would be less than \$1,000 per biennium.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Does the City Council support the use of cameras to enhance public involvement and/or security?
- For security purposes, who makes the decision to release information? It may be appropriate for approval to come from the Chief of Police, the City Administrator and the City Attorney, or when subpoenaed.
- How long should camera data be held? It is common for data to be held for 30 days then erased.
- Placement of cameras – only viewing public spaces

- For security purposes alone, cameras are typically not monitored but the footage is only used if a crime has been committed. Should this be included in the policy?

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS**

Staff would like direction on the development of a City policy on the use of cameras and will bring back a draft policy at a future Council meeting.

**REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS**

None