



## *Lawrence Police Department*

*90 Lowell Street*

*Lawrence, Massachusetts 01840*

*www.lawpd.com*

*Roy P. Vasque*  
*Chief of Police*

TO: Mayor Daniel Rivera  
Cc: Lawrence City Council  
FROM: Chief Roy Vasque  
RE: Surveillance Cameras  
DATE: March 26, 2018

The City of Lawrence will be providing, operating and maintaining the camera system in an attempt to create a safe and secure environment as well as to protect the health, safety and welfare of all those who live, work, visit and transact business within the City. The monitoring devices will be strategically placed throughout the City at the direction of the Chief of Police for the purpose of assisting the Lawrence Police Department (“LPD”) in detecting and deterring crime throughout the City, and most importantly an invaluable tool for an investigator to solve crimes. There are numerous examples of surveillance footage aiding in an offender’s conviction. Surveillance footage can also help identify potential witnesses who might not otherwise come forward to police. Surveillance footage evidence can be compelling, though issues of image quality are a factor surveillance images are used for identification purposes. If the cameras record an incident, and police respond rapidly and make an arrest within view of the camera (and the offender does not leave the sight of the camera), the recording of the incident can help investigators gain a conviction, usually through a guilty plea. The potential to assist in police investigations may also drive offenders away from committing offenses that take time, as they run a greater risk of capture. These cameras will not be used to enforce traffic violations. These locations will be determined through an analysis of crime patterns and commonly known “Hot Spots” throughout the City. Additionally, the Chief of Police will be asking for input from the Mayor, the City Council, Business Leaders and Neighborhood group regarding the placement of these cameras

The cameras will act as crime prevention, scene reconstruction, and evidence gathering tools and will also be a key resource which will aid the LPD and other municipal officials in securing vulnerable sites by producing real time views of both crime scenes and emergency scenes, allowing LPD command staff to manage the police response in an efficient and timely manner.

The camera system shall consist of City-owned monitoring devices. The particular type of monitoring device installed at a location shall be determined by and at the sole discretion of the Chief of Police or his designee. The camera system shall also have the capability to be accessed remotely through a web-based virtual private network (VPN) connection. The Chief of Police shall limit this type of access to authorized users only. There will be a monitor placed in the Office of the Officer in Charge (OIC) of each shift, as well as the dispatch center. The data will be stored for 30 days. There are two types of cameras; those that may be fixed to monitor a static location and those installed with a pan-tilt-zoom capability to survey a wider range of view and/or a closer view. These cameras will be clearly marked with the Lawrence Police Department logo in a conspicuous manner as an additional crime deterrent. At this time we anticipate that there will be 28 triple head cameras at 28 locations, which as stated will be determined at a later date.

The Department is conscious of the City's budgetary constraints and is constantly looking for strategies to enhance crime prevention while increasing efficiency. Having cameras at 28 locations throughout the City will provide invaluable monitoring capabilities that will assist the Department in deterring, responding to, and solving crimes.