

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERS Approving a City-wide policy on use of cameras and fees. (Chief Administrative Officer)

REPORT: 1520-04

ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

The City of New Haven utilizes a common operating platform for all city cameras. Cameras, IP addressable, come back into the City's network and are viewable at various locations; they are accessed with approved and authorized permissions and passwords. This common platform allows us to interface and view cameras with other entities utilizing Milestone. See attachments for more information on the exact wording of the policy and fees.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The increased use of cameras and the growing number of requests from members of the public to access camera recordings require that the City implement a clear and consistent camera policy and fees. Such policy needs to provide guidelines for camera installation, access, usage, video storage, and how public requests for video will be handed and fees for the video requests. A fee schedule has been established for individuals and outside agencies requesting copies of camera video. The fees will reimburse the City for computer/video supplies and costs related to the exportation of video footage and provision of copies.

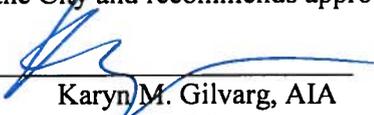
From a land use perspective, the most relevant portion of the policy may be in relation to where cameras are actually placed. This is covered in the first line of the policy: "Cameras may be used in areas in which they enhance the protection of the public and there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Signage may also be used." While this leaves significant leeway in deciding which locations are appropriate, it does provide a useful basic framework for making this determination.

The Commission notes the Board of Alders may wish to clarify within the document itself that the policy is for City-owned or City-monitored cameras only. Cameras on private property monitored by the City are subject to Zoning Ordinance sections, if applicable, concerning signs. Cameras in the right-of-way may also be subject to the Board of Alders and Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department regulations.

ADVICE

The Commission finds the Resolution in the best interest of the City and recommends approval.

ADOPTED: July 20, 2016
Adam Marchand
Acting Chair

ATTEST: 
Karyn M. Gilvarg, AIA
Executive Director