



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

14-0930

Agenda Date: 1/30/2015

2015 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

CDD 15-08

TITLE Policies Regarding Private Security Cameras

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Community Development Department
Support Department(s): Public Safety

Sponsor(s):

Councilmembers: Griffith, Hendricks

History:

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What are the key elements of the study?

1) Examine existing ordinances affecting residents who wish to install security cameras for their personal safety. The current code requirements are written to protect property owner privacy, but the regulations may prevent placing private cameras in a manner that provides people a sense of security. Private security cameras have become more commonplace, but the placement and location of the devices may raise concerns from adjacent neighbors about the visual impact or potential intrusion of privacy. An additional element to consider is that these cameras could be useful for law enforcement agencies when investigating criminal activity.

2) Examine the feasibility of a voluntary camera registration program or other tools for greater law enforcement effectiveness similar to other cities in the area. Voluntary surveillance registries have been approved for use in the City of San Jose and are already in place in Los Gatos, Fremont and Sacramento.

What precipitated this study?

This study was precipitated by a resident who wished to install security cameras at his private residence, but who hesitated due to interpretations of existing City code.

Planned Completion Year: 2015

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate

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Amount of funding above current budget required: \$0

Funding Source: N/A

Explanation of Cost: N/A

Cost to Implement Study Results

No cost to implement.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Planning Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Support

Explanation: Given the increase in security camera use by private citizens, this is a good time to review the standards and regulations, as well as to consider options for allowing law enforcement to use the recordings for criminal investigations.

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Reviewed by: Frank Grgurina, Director, Public Safety Department

Reviewed By: Robert A. Walker, Assistant City Manager

Approved By: Deanna J. Santana, City Manager