



Rashi Kesarwani  
Councilmember District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR  
November 10, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author), Mayor Jesse Arreguin (co-sponsor)

SUBJECT: Authorize Installation of Security Cameras at Major Berkeley Arterial Streets Serving as Entry and Exit Points for the City and Request an Environmental Safety Assessment in High Crime Areas of the City

RECOMMENDATION

In order to deter would-be perpetrators of gun violence and apprehend those engaging in gun violence, adopt the following recommendations:

- Request that the City Manager install security cameras and increased lighting at appropriate arterial streets serving as entry into and exit out of the City of Berkeley in conjunction with prominently displayed signage;
- Refer to the City Manager to perform an environmental safety assessment of the high crime areas specifically in South and West Berkeley;
- Refer costs for security cameras and lighting to the mid-year budget process for FY 2020-21.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approximately \$500,000 to \$1 million for purchasing security cameras including camera storage and maintenance, as well as signage installation and increased lighting.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Following regional and national trends, the City of Berkeley is experiencing an uptick in shootings. According to Berkeleyside, Berkeley saw 20 shootings in 2018, 28 shootings in 2019, and 32 shootings so far in 2020 with more than two months remaining in the year.<sup>1</sup> Most recently, on Wed., Oct. 21, 17 shots were fired within 20 seconds on Prince

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<sup>1</sup> "Annual crime report sees shootings rise for the third straight year," Oct. 15, 2020, [https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/15/2020-berkeley-crime-report-shootings-rise-use-of-force-stop-data?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1603673460.1734480857849121093750](https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/15/2020-berkeley-crime-report-shootings-rise-use-of-force-stop-data?doing_wp_cron=1603673460.1734480857849121093750) (

## Authorize Installation of Security Cameras at Major Berkeley Arterial Streets

Street near Ellis Street, tragically killing 19-year-old Sereinat'e Henderson, who was pregnant and the mother of a 10-month-old son. In an online fundraiser for her family, Sereinat'e is described as a "vibrant young woman."

In addition to the tragic death of Sereinat'e Henderson, our community lost three others from fatal shootings in 2020; at least 10 others have been wounded.<sup>2</sup> Shootings often involve suspects who flee the area of the crime in their vehicles. Police investigating the crime rely on private security cameras owned by residents and/or businesses in order to obtain video evidence. Installing high-quality cameras at major arterials would ensure access to videos and allow investigators to check the videos for suspects fleeing the crime area in their vehicle. High-quality images of suspect vehicles would provide valuable investigative leads. Strategically placed cameras should be of sufficient quality to capture high resolution video. Cameras would not be equipped with Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR), and would not be monitored. The recordings would be an investigative resource which officers could access while investigating specific crimes and could assist in a reduction of crime. This would be an additional element of our Police Department's crime prevention strategies.

Estimated one-time costs to install cameras, signage and lighting are likely to range from \$75,000 to \$150,000 per intersection, plus \$40,000 annually for data, software and maintenance.

Key intersections entering and leaving Berkeley to be considered should include:

- 6<sup>th</sup>/University
- 7<sup>th</sup>/Ashby
- San Pablo Ave./Ashby
- Sacramento/Alcatraz
- Alcatraz/Adeline
- Ashby/Telegraph
- San Pablo Ave./Gilman
- Gilman/6<sup>th</sup>
- College/Alcatraz
- Ashby/Domingo
- Ashby/Claremont
- Solano/Colusa
- Marin/Colusa

Other possible intersections to consider within Berkeley:

- University/San Pablo

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<sup>2</sup> The 2020 Berkeley gunfire map, Updated Oct. 23, <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/03/2020-berkeley-gunfire-map>

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- University/Shattuck
- University/Sacramento
- Sacramento/Ashby

Berkeley's Police Department has been conducting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments for neighborhoods throughout the City for years. Such assessments include recommendations such as: increased lighting, maintenance of properties, landscaping and signage that can be used to deter criminal behavior. The National Institute of Crime Prevention notes: "The proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and to an improvement in quality of life."

**BACKGROUND**

A 2011 report from The Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center notes that cameras can be an effective fiscally prudent tool for preventing crimes and supporting investigations; and installation and maintenance of security cameras is less costly than the associated costs with crimes that take place without them.

"Stationary security cameras affixed to City property or facilities" are not regulated under the Surveillance Technology Ordinance (See BMC Section 2.99.020.1.i). As a result, stationary camera installation at major thoroughfares would be exempt from the requirements of BMC Chapter 2.99.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

This item has no impact on environmental sustainability.

**CONTACT**

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