

Terry Taplin
Councilmember District 2
Rashi Kesarwani
Councilmember District 1

REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1

Meeting Date: October 12, 2021

Item Number: 20

Item Description: Budget Referral: Security Cameras in the Public Right Of Way at Intersections Experiencing Increased Violent Crime, and Environmental Safety Assessment for High Crime Areas

Submitted by: Councilmember Taplin, Councilmember Kesarwani

- Removed several locations from recommended intersections for camera placement
- Specified compatibility with existing cameras
- Revised fiscal estimate
- Revised background section to include updated gunfire statistics
- Added statistics on private security cameras registered with BPD



CONSENT CALENDAR
Oct. 12, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Taplin (Author), Councilmember Kesarwani (Author)

Subject: Budget Referral: Security Cameras in the Public Right Of Way at Intersections Experiencing Increased Violent Crime, and Environmental Safety Assessment for High Crime Areas

RECOMMENDATION

In order to deter gun violence and obtain evidence to solve criminal investigations, adopt the following recommendations:

1. Authorize the City Manager to install security cameras, prominent signage, and increased lighting in the public right-of-way at intersections experiencing a rise in violent crime, including appropriate arterial streets serving as entry into and exit out of the City of Berkeley;
2. Refer to the City Manager an environmental safety assessment of the high crime areas specifically in South and West Berkeley;
3. Refer costs for security cameras and lighting to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance (AAO) #1 budget process.

We note that the security camera footage would be used solely for the purpose of solving criminal investigations. The cameras are not intended and would not be used for any kind of surveillance purposes whatsoever. Cameras should be compatible with those already in use at San Pablo Park under Contract Nos. 31900080 and 31900205.

Key intersections entering and leaving Berkeley for security camera installation as recommended by the Berkeley Police Department could include those listed below. Arterial intersections along University ~~and~~ Ashby ~~and Alcatraz~~ in close proximity to gun violence in South and West Berkeley should be prioritized.

- ~~Sixth~~6th/University
- ~~Seventh~~7th/Ashby
- San Pablo Ave/Ashby
- ~~Sacramento~~/Alcatraz
- ~~Alcatraz~~/Adeline
- University/San Pablo
- Sacramento/Ashby
-
- ~~MLK~~/Ashby

- Dwight/7th
- San Pablo and Dwight
- ~~Gilman/6th~~
- ~~College/Alcatraz~~
- ~~Ashby/Domingo~~
- ~~Ashby/Claremont~~

Other locations within Berkeley as requested by residents may include the following:

- ~~University/Sacramento~~
- Sacramento/Oregon
- George Florence Park
- ~~10th/Bancroft~~
- ~~Eighthth/Channing~~
- ~~108th/Addison~~

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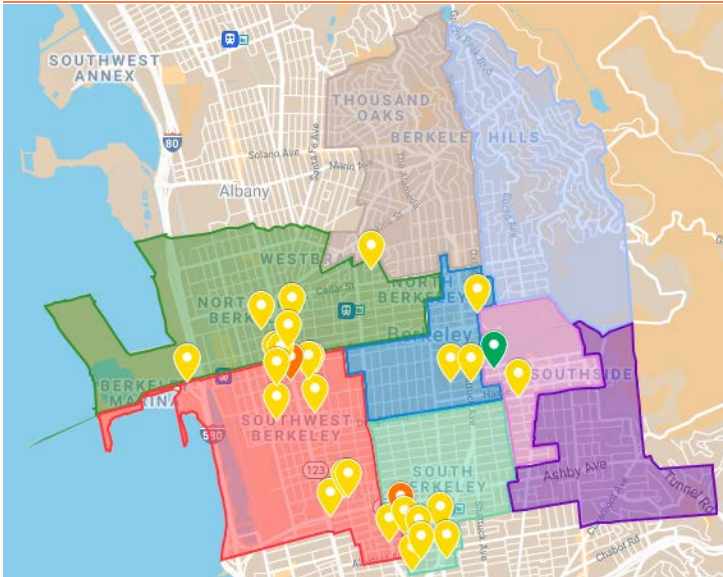
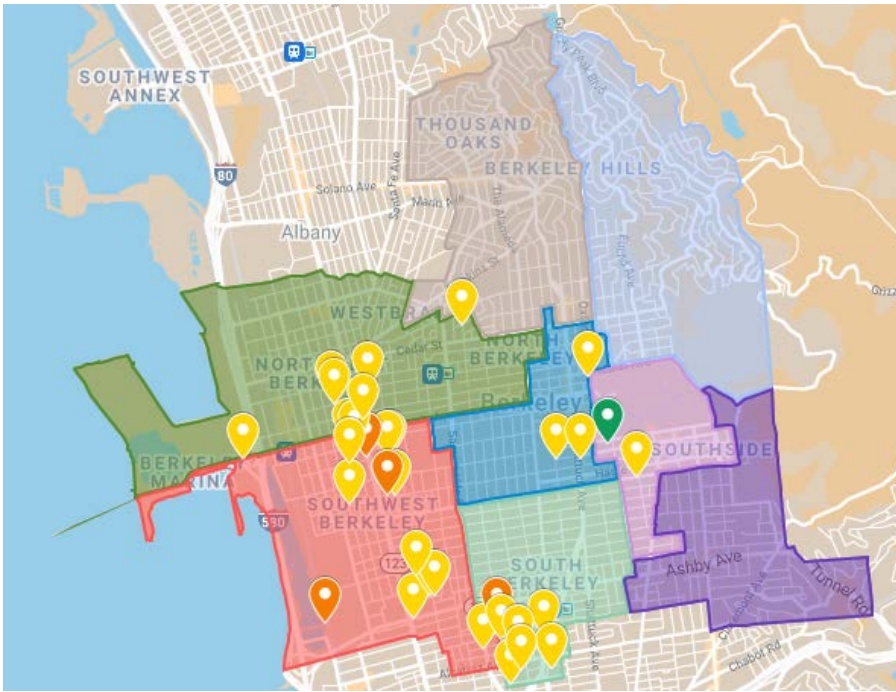
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FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

~~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. Total costs would vary based on the number of intersections selected. Specifically, total one-time costs for prioritizing seven intersections recommended by the Berkeley Police Department would be \$525,000 to \$1,050,000 plus ongoing data, software and maintenance costs of \$280,000. Approximately \$975,000 to \$1,950,000 to \$100,000 to \$1 million for purchasing security cameras including camera storage and maintenance, as well as signage installation and increased lighting. 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.~~

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

According to the Berkeley Police Department, there were ~~29-35~~ shootings in 2021 as of September ~~624~~, compared to ~~22-24~~ shootings by the same date in 2020. Only 10 of the investigations on those shootings have been closed with an identified suspect, and the Department has recovered 70 firearms this year so far; ~~22~~ of those firearms, including 4 rifles, were recovered during detective follow-up investigations.



*2021 Berkeley Gunfire Map*¹

[West Berkeley neighborhoods have experienced repeated terrorizing incidents of gunfire in recent weeks.](#) On the morning of Saturday, September 4, 2021, West Berkeley residents reported 8 to 10 gunshots from two cars driving on Tenth St. past George Florence Park.² Panicked parents grabbed their children and ran for cover, but the park is fenced in on three sides, and is only open on the side of the street where the gunfire was identified. Police responded to the scene and found evidence of a second shooting just two blocks away at Ninth and Allston. This follows recent shootings at Eighth and Channing on August 20, and one that injured a man at San Pablo and Allston on August 14.³ [On the evening of September 23, a shooting at the intersection of Channing Way and Byron Street sent a teenage girl to the hospital with injuries.](#)⁴ Residents of this neighborhood are alarmed by the surge in gun violence and have urged the City to install security cameras in public spaces with a high incidence of violent crime, along with other evidence-based public safety responses, to ensure safer streets.

[High-quality images of suspect vehicles would provide valuable investigative leads to assist efforts to bring accountability for violent gun crimes.](#) Shootings often involve suspects who flee the area of the crime in their vehicles. Police investigating the crime often 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 footage for suspects fleeing the crime area in their vehicle. ~~High-quality images of suspect vehicles would provide valuable investigative leads.~~

The City already urges private property owners with security cameras to register their cameras with the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) to assist in criminal investigations, and property owners readily avail themselves of this resource. [According to the Department, a total of 283 security cameras owned by private citizens and businesses are currently registered with BPD.](#) Valuable public safety resources should not be delegated entirely to the voluntary cooperation of private entities, particularly when violent gunfire has occurred in many public spaces including parks and major intersections.

¹ Raguso, E. (2021). The 2021 Berkeley Gunfire Map. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved Sept. 4, 2021 from <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/05/22/2021-berkeley-gunfire-map>

² Raguso, E. (Sept. 4, 2021). Police investigate daytime shoot-out in Berkeley on Saturday. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved from <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/09/05/police-investigate-daytime-shoot-out-west-berkeley-saturday>

³ Raguso, E. (Aug. 14, 2021). Update: Man shot in Berkeley is expected to survive; roadway is open. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved from <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/08/14/man-shot-berkeley-traffic-san-pablo-avenue>

⁴ [Raguso, E. \(Sept. 23, 2021\). Berkeley shooting sends teenage girl to hospital. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved from <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/09/23/southwest-berkeley-shooting-hospital-girl-16>](#)

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.

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"Stationary security cameras affixed to City property or facilities" are not regulated under the Surveillance Technology Ordinance (~~e.f.~~ 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.

Providing security cameras in the public right-of-way is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

BACKGROUND

A 2011 report⁵ from The Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center noted that cameras can be an effective tool for preventing crimes and supporting investigations. These tools appear fiscally prudent both as tools for investigations, and with the installation and maintenance of security cameras being less costly than the costs associated with crimes that may take place without them. Moreover, an experiment conducted at the University of Twente in the Netherlands finds evidence that the presence of security cameras can encourage "prosocial" and "helping behavior" among bystanders.⁶

Berkeley's Police Department has been conducting Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments for neighborhoods throughout the City over the past several years. These assessments include recommendations such as: increased lighting, maintenance of properties, landscaping and signage that can be used to deter criminal behavior.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Terry Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120
Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani Council District 1 510-981-7110

⁵ La Vigne, N. G., et al. (2011). Evaluating the use of public surveillance cameras for crime control and prevention. *Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Urban Institute, Justice Policy Center, 1-152.*

⁶Van Rompay, T. J., et al. (2009). The eye of the camera: Effects of security cameras on prosocial behavior. *Environment and Behavior*, 41(1), 60-74. Retrieved from <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.844.4026&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

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