Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Barrett, Hines Announce Solution on Surveillance Cameras
Program on track to be up and running by the end of the month

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett and Common Council President Willie Hines have agreed to a financing plan for the first 15 of 20 surveillance cameras to be installed throughout the City to combat neighborhood crime. As discussed over the past several months, the $1 million project has received over $400,000 in federal grant funding, leaving a balance of just under $600,000 to be funded by the City.

A Department of Public Works (DPW) Capital Facilities account, which is reserved for various building and security projects, has been identified as a funding source for a portion of the balance. Milwaukee Police Department operating funds and the DPW Public Safety Communications account will cover the remainder of the costs. These accounts have multi-year balances and as such, no other budgeted projects are jeopardized by this allocation.

"This project is an important component of our multi-pronged effort to reduce crime in neighborhoods," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "I believe we have found a solution that benefits not only the residents and businesses in the areas where the cameras will be installed but the taxpayers as well. In addition to their value as a crime deterrent, the cameras will also provide evidentiary value for the prosecution of offenders. It's time these cameras are up and running."

President Hines added, "I commend the Common Council members for communicating their concerns, and I applaud the mayor for collaborating with the Council to find the right solution. All of us care deeply about reducing the crime rate in Milwaukee. By harnessing the potential of these surveillance cameras, we give ourselves another tool to make our city safe."

In addition to the cameras themselves, the funds will pay for an entire state-of-the-art system including: fiber and wireless connectivity, installation, record retention, dispatch reconfiguration and a monitoring console.

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