
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 5, 2013

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Commercial corridors could get surveillance cameras under city program

News conference set for Thursday at District Three

Under a proposed city matching grant program, commercial corridors in Milwaukee could apply to be outfitted with mounted, police-monitored surveillance cameras.

The initiative sponsored by **Alderman Michael J. Murphy, Alderman Bob Donovan, Alderman Joe Davis, Sr.** and supported by **Mayor Tom Barrett**, will use a \$200,000 matching grant that will help provide monitored surveillance cameras in commercial corridors where Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other like groups exist to support and help fund improvements. **Details of the program will be announced tomorrow (Thursday, June 6) during a news conference at 1 p.m. at Milwaukee Police Department's District Three facility, 2333 N. 49th St.**

Alderman Murphy, Alderman Donovan, and Alderman Davis are expected to be joined during Thursday's conference by Mayor Tom Barrett and a representative of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Alderman Murphy, chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, said BIDs and business associations will be provided an opportunity to match the grant funds for the installation of cameras, which have become standard public safety tools in shopping and commercial areas across the U.S.

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Surveillance cameras/ADD ONE

“Surveillance cameras utilized in commercial corridors have proven effective in helping to deter crime and also helping to solve crimes,” Alderman Murphy said.

Alderman Donovan said surveillance cameras in business areas on the near south side have helped solve serious crimes, including fatal hit-and-run accidents. “We live in an age where the police simply cannot be everywhere at all times, and the cameras are a valuable tool to not only deter crimes, but also to catch criminals and help bring them to justice,” said Alderman Donovan, whose Operation Impact on the near south side has helped install dozens of surveillance cameras along busy commercial strips.

The sources of the funding for the \$200,000 matching grant will be Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds (\$100,000), and funds generated from the Milwaukee Police Department’s asset forfeiture program (confiscated cash and property from criminal cases) in the amount of \$100,000.

A Common Council file detailing the initiative is expected to be introduced at the Council’s June 11 meeting.