OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY AND INFORMATION & TECHNOLOGY	MAY 30, 2024 4:00 P.M.

Information & Technology Committee Members Present	Rachel Tomas Morgan, Sherry Bolden-Simpson, Canneth Lee
Information & Technology Committee Members Absent	Kate Berlent, Maria Gibbs
Health & Public Safety Committee Members Present	Rachel Tomas Morgan, Troy Warner, Karen White, Savino Rivera, Frank Spesia
Health & Public Safety Committee Members Absent	Dr. Oliver Davis
Others Present	Bianca L. Tirado*, Matthew Neal, Bob Palmer
Presenters	Operations Division Chief (D/C) Dan Skibins, Denise Riedl

Agenda

I.   Call to Order

II.   Presentation: Public Safety Technologies by South Bend Police Department and Department of Innovation & Technology
   A. Real Time Crime Center
   B. Business and Residential Security Cameras
   C. Flock License Plate Readers
   D. South Bend Police Transparency Hub
   E. Other

III. Questions and Discussion

IV.   Adjournment

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are present digitally

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Information & Technology Committee Chair / Health & Public Safety Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan called to order the joint Information & Technology and Health & Public Safety committee meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Presentation: Public Safety Technologies by South Bend Police Department and Department of Innovation & Technology

Operations Chief Dan Skibins, South Bend Police Department (SBPD), gave an overview of License Plate Readers (LPRs) in South Bend. South Bend has been utilizing LPRs for eleven (11) years now and has been utilizing Flock LPRs since 2021. Flock LPRs are utilized by Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, Elkhart County, Berrien County, and other jurisdictions. The SBPD is able to more easily work in conjunction with jurisdictions that also utilize Flock LPRs. The Real Time Crime Center (RTCC), which is platformed by Fusus, has one (1) civilian Senior Crime Analyst, a civilian crime intel analyst, a civilian crime data analyst, a civilian crime resource specialist, and four (4) civilian crime analysts working directly out of the RTCC. By the end of 2023 the RTCC had enough staff for six (6) days of coverage per week and about eighteen (18) hours of coverage per day. The goal is to have the RTCC operational seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day. The RTCC is primarily focused on Part One (1) Crimes (homicides, aggravated assaults, robberies, etc.) and are able to communicate with police officers in real-time. There are more than one thousand four hundred (1,400) registered cameras and nearly eight hundred (800) integrated cameras in South Bend.

Denise Riedl, Department of Innovation and Technology, spoke regarding the City's Security Grant program. In 2023 the City gave up to five thousand dollars ($5,000) in equipment and services to small businesses, and soon, in the summer of 2024 the City will launch a new round of the program with some expanded eligibility and key changes to make it more user-friendly. Any storefront entity (including nonprofits) will be able to apply, and winners will receive up to four thousand dollars ($4,000) in equipment and installation costs along with a free Fusus Core. Security consultants will help the grant winners with purchasing equipment, installation, and troubleshooting. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis until funds run out, and grant winners will be required to integrate into the RTCC. Denise Riedl stated that outreach is important to recruit applicants and to keep winners engaged in the process. Councilmembers can help identify hotspots and troublesome intersections in their districts that may benefit from an integrated camera partnership.

Health and Public Safety Committee Vice Chair Troy Warner stated that having a one (1) page informational handout would be helpful and stated that much of the feedback from 2023 has been addressed in the new round of funding.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan stated that having the one (1) page informational handout both in print and online would be helpful.

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Sue Kesim, 4022 Kennedy Drive, South Bend IN 46614, suggested installing integrated cameras in vacant homes, in vacant buildings, under bridges, and in predator hotspots.

Denise Riedl stated that the redesigned Police Transparency Hub will be released soon, in the summer of 2024. The City ran testing sessions with power-users, media, and interested residents earlier in 2024 to help identify areas of the Police Transparency Hub that needed improvement. Some of the updates to the Police Transparency Hub will include mobile-friendly improvements as well as the simplification of the presentation of data to ease the sharing of information for residents and the media.

Questions and Discussion

Information and Technology Committee Member Canneth Lee requested information regarding a launch date for the redesigned Police Transparency Hub.

Denise Riedl stated that there is not yet a specific launch date, but the redesigned Police Transparency Hub will be released this summer.

Information and Technology Committee Member Lee stated that he spoke with a business owner that is waiting to hear back regarding the City's Security Grant program.

Denise Riedl stated that she can reach out and look more into the situation.

Health and Public Safety Citizen Member Frank Spesia requested information regarding the costs associated with Flock cameras.

Operations Chief Skibins stated that each camera is rented and costs two thousand five hundred dollars ($2,500) each year.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan requested information regarding the amount of funding each security grant participant would receive.

Denise Riedl stated that the amount of funds awarded would be determined on an individual basis because the funding needs of participants vary greatly.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan asked if the new round of funding is being targeted toward any areas in particular.

Denise Riedl stated that preference will go to areas with historically higher rates of reported crimes as well as areas that are more pedestrian heavy.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan requested information regarding the number of crime analysts.

Operations Chief Skibins stated that, in addition to a RTCC supervisor, originally there were two (2) analysts in the RTCC and now there are four (4). The SBPD will be requesting funding for two (2) more analysts to help achieve the desired twenty-four (24) hour seven (7) days a week coverage.

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Sue Kesim stated appreciation for the redesign of dashboards, congratulated the SBPD for a clearance rate of eighty-two percent (82%), and stated that the RTCC has helped to increase officer safety.

Operations Chief Skibins stated that the SBPDs response time to hot calls is around two-to-three (2-3) minutes. The RTCC analysts speak with officers in real-time, which helps to provide them with information they can use to help better prepare for dangerous situations.

Sue Kesim requested Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) data in order to create maps detailing hotspots where crimes are being reported most frequently.

Denise Riedl stated that crime hotspots are taken into consideration when deciding where to place new cameras.

Health and Public Safety Committee Vice Chair Warner stated that the SBPD utilizes Fusus as a means of predictive technology to help plan patrol routes around areas with higher rates of crime.

Operations Chief Skibins stated that the SBPD also utilizes ShotSpotter Connect in conjunction with Fusus to help determine placement of officers throughout the City.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan stated that technology has made the SBPD safer and more efficient.

Operation Chief Skibins stated that the SBPD holds weekly meetings discussing location and density of firearm related calls and instances. The RTCC manager utilizes heat maps and looks at calls for service that may not have generated a report.

Sue Kesim suggested placing a ShotSpotter device in Irish Hills if there aren't any already.

Operations Chief Skibins stated that the thirty-day (30) default Flock data retention period is typically the standard nation-wide and has not caused problems for the SBPD. Once an incident occurs and Flock data gets added to an investigation the retention period is extended.

Health and Public Safety Committee Vice Chair Warner requested information regarding the analysts that operate outside of the RTCC.

Operations Chief Skibins stated that one (1) analyst focuses on collecting and mapping firearm related reports, one (1) analyst focuses on Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) calls, and one (1) analyst that works directly with the Flock and ShotSpotter technologies.

Information and Technology Committee Member Lee requested information regarding the location of RTCC cameras.

Denise Riedl stated that the exact locations of cameras are not disclosed publicly, but a map highlighting areas containing RTCC cameras can be shared. Denise Riedl also stated that a tally of RTCC cameras in each district could be made.

Information and Technology Committee Member Lee stated that information regarding the location of cameras would be useful when knowing which areas to target for the Security Grant.

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Health and Public Safety Committee Vice Chair Warner stated that he was able to go to the RTCC and see, generally, which areas could benefit from an increase of cameras.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan stated that Dr. Donald Zimmer of Beacon Health System has been working with Group Violence Intervention (GVI) and the South Bend Community School Corporation (SBCSC) to host a Youth Anti-Gun Violence Symposium on June 4, 2024.

With no further business, Committee Chair Tomas Morgan adjourned the joint Information & Technology and Health & Public Safety committee meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Committee Chair

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