

City Security Camera Follow-Up

Objective, Scope and Methodology: The objective of this follow-up report was to determine if City Management implemented the recommendations on made in an earlier report, City Security Camera Audit (Project# 2022-02 finalized on March 31, 2022).

Status: Implemented

Prior Recommendation:

City management should work with departmental leadership and the IT Department to review the City's overall camera system and develop a plan for addressing future coverage needs and access based on business related criteria such as preventing theft and fraud, improving safety to employees and citizens, lowering the risk of vandalism or to aid in law enforcement.

Improvements Since Original Audit:

The citywide procurement system has been updated to incorporate IT review and approval for all bid requests. As a result, larger and construction related projects are now evaluated for camera installations and other technology requirements during the procurement process. Additionally, as part of the annual budget cycle, departments may request funding for camera additions at existing facilities. Each department establishes its own priorities for these enhancements.

To further support a coordinated approach, management has included the City's Landscaping Division in the review process for new construction projects. This ensures that landscaping plans account for future camera placement and help prevent potential obstructions. Citywide camera coverage has continued to expand, increasing to 580 cameras from 453 reported in the original audit.

Requests for access to camera systems are formally documented and approved through a System Access Form within the City's document management system. Since its implementation in 2021, a total of 134 access requests have been processed. Existing camera systems are periodically reviewed by authorized staff, including IT personnel and the City Internal Auditor. In addition, Parks Administration, who has the majority of City camera locations, conducts monthly reviews.

While formal written policies have not yet been established, procedural improvements have strengthened oversight and consistency. These include integrating camera considerations into procurement requirements for new facilities, standardizing user access through a formal approval process, and incorporating camera expansion into the annual budget process. Camera placement decisions are guided by departmental priorities and general risk-based criteria, such as areas involving cash handling, public access, or other locations identified as high risk by department leadership.