

TO MAYOR/COUNCIL FYI
Date 6/18/20 By Y. Fierro



BUDGET & MANAGEMENT STUDIES

DATE: June 18, 2020

TO: MAYOR LEE BRAND
COUNCIL PRESIDENT MIGUEL ARIAS
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

THROUGH: WILMA QUAN, City Manager

FROM: HENRY FIERRO, Budget Manager

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL DIRECTION No. 41 – REQUEST AUDIT OF VIDEO POLICING SURVEILLANCE UNIT

During the Budget Hearing on June 15, 2020, Council Member Esparza requested an audit of the Police Department's Video Policing Surveillance Unit. The attached memo submitted by the Police Department provides the requested information.

C: Jane Sumpter, Assistant City Manager
Jim Schaad, Assistant City Manager
Tim Orman, Chief of Staff
Andrew Hall, Police Chief
Rene Watahira, Administrative Manager
Pedro Rivera, Principal Budget Analyst



POLICE DEPARTMENT

June 17, 2020

TO: HENRY FIERRO, Budget Manager
MICHELLE WOOTEN, Senior Budget Analyst

FROM: ANDREW J. HALL, Chief of Police 

SUBJECT: BUDGET HEARING REQUEST

During the Police Department Budget Hearing on June 15, 2020, Council Member Nelson Esparza requested an audit of the Police Department's Video Policing Surveillance Unit. The following is an overview of the Police Department's Video Policing Unit. This report will also briefly provide a background of our last audit and our plan to have the Police Department's Audit officer within our Policy and Procedure Unit complete the audit requested by Council Member Esparza.

The Video Policing Program (VPP) was established in 2006 based on initial funding for acquisition and installation of cameras and wiring-cable systems to facilitate electronic signal transmissions, along with the computer system in place at the time in the Fresno Police Department Communication Center. In approving the establishment of the VPP program, City Council requested the annual hiring of a retired Federal Judge to audit the program and ensure compliance.

Budget constraints in 2009 resulted in the VPP program being shut down as all personnel monitoring the system at the time were laid off. The program was re-started in 2013. Hon. Oliver W. Wanger (ret.) completed a thorough audit of the VPP program in December 2013. While there were no procedural or policy violations found, Wanger did recommend expanding the search for auditors to include retired State judges due to the limited pool of Federal judges.

In 2015, the VPP was integrated into the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). The VPP was staffed with four temporary part-time employees and light duty officers who were unable to work field assignments due to injury. In 2019, the temporary employees were separated as part of a city-wide direction. Due to a shortage of staff and no funding for additional hiring, the VPP and RTCC have been shut down since January 1, 2020. No new cameras are being installed and several of the existing cameras are no longer operational due to outdated technology and no staff to troubleshoot problems. Operational cameras are used for evidentiary purposes only and are not viewed in real-time; however detectives frequently check past footage for potential evidentiary value.

Although the original agreement with City Council was to have a retired Federal judge complete annual audits; due to the fact the program is currently not monitored and video is only accessed after the fact, I will be directing our Audit officer to complete audits as necessary. If the VPP program is reinstated, using a retired federal judge will be used for future audits.

AH/rb