

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV)

2007 Annual Report



Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police



Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor

Mission of the Metropolitan Police Department

It is the mission of the Metropolitan Police Department to safeguard the District of Columbia and protect its residents and visitors by providing the highest quality of police service with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to innovation that integrates people, technology and progressive business systems.

Guiding Principles of Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier

- Reduce crime and the fear of crime in the community
- Change the culture of the MPD from reacting to crime to building and sustaining safe neighborhoods
- Position the MPD to be viewed and respected nationally and internationally as a model for how it serves the community
- Build homeland security into the culture of the MPD and the community without creating fear
- Make the relationship between police and neighborhoods paramount — tailoring policing to neighborhoods
- Build on what the MPD is doing right
- Focus on MPD's routine activities, fostering innovation and initiative, all while maintaining fiscal accountability
- Encourage teamwork and leadership at every level of the police department and throughout the community
- Emphasize that every MPD employee has the power to influence positive change — and encourage them to improve the service they provide to both the Department and community
- Throughout the department, focus on how the MPD can address youth issues
- Enhance follow-up in all aspects of the department to meet community needs.

Introduction

In 2006, the Council of the District of Columbia amended regulations governing the use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in Title 24 District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), Chapter 25. As a result of the Council's governance and MPD's comprehensive policies and procedures, the District of Columbia's CCTV system is the most tightly regulated system of its kind in the Nation. The CCTV program meets the criminal justice video surveillance guidelines adopted by the American Bar Association.

This document fulfills MPD's responsibility, assigned by Title 24 DCMR, Chapter 25, Section 2508.6, to report to the Mayor and to the Council on the cameras' effectiveness at preventing, detecting, and solving crime since their installation.

Report Contents

1. CCTV Program Goals	1
2. System Operations and Capabilities.....	2
3. Evaluation of Neighborhood-based CCTV System Effectiveness.....	6
4. Strategic Vision.....	10
5. Fiscal Impact of Long-Range CCTV Plan	10
6. Conclusion.....	10

1. CCTV Program Goals

The Closed Circuit Television system operated and maintained by the MPD captures video feed from two CCTV programs, CCTV for Homeland Security and Neighborhood-based Cameras to Combat Crime. Each program has similar but unique goals and governance structures. The primary goal of the CCTV system is to enhance the safety and security of residents, workers and visitors in the District of Columbia, while vigorously respecting the privacy rights of individuals.

a. Manage Public Resources During Major Public Events/Demonstrations and Coordinate Traffic Control

CCTV for Homeland Security provides law enforcement with real-time, visual information during major events such as demonstrations, presidential inaugurations and marches. During periods of heightened alert, the system allows police to monitor public spaces around key installations that are at risk of terrorist attacks, without having to assign a large number of uniformed officers to the task. The CCTV system helps the MPD to deploy resources more efficiently and to respond to incidents more quickly and effectively, while continuing to maintain essential neighborhood patrols.

b. Combat Crime

The use of Neighborhood-based Cameras to enhance public safety is intended to directly aid in Prevention, Detection, and Investigation of crime. These cameras are active 24 hours a day and monitored on a limited basis.

- i. **Prevention** - The presence of CCTV cameras increase public safety. The effect is most likely the result of a heightened awareness of the potential for acts to be recorded, which creates a perceived risk that deters criminal activity. Individuals are less likely to commit a crime if they suspect that they are being monitored.

Research funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services supports that routinely monitoring the cameras can increase their effectiveness by increasing the probability that any illegal activity is immediately dealt with. The CCTV system will more effectively deter crime if the risk of capture is greater than the rewards of the intended crime.

- ii. **Detection** – Both actively and passively monitored surveillance systems aid police investigations by providing digital recordings of criminal activities and the events leading up to the crimes. Active surveillance systems that are monitored on a real-time basis provide the advantage of being able to detect suspicious activity while it is occurring, thereby facilitating an immediate response. In addition to recording perpetrators of criminal activity, the CCTV system may record possible witnesses.
- iii. **Investigation** - Evidence obtained from video gathered from video surveillance cameras is invaluable to police investigations. The ability to review captured video images has aided many investigations by providing clear details of what actually took place.

2. System Operations and Capabilities

In 2000, the MPD began to use CCTV to support the management of major events in the District. From these experiences, the MPD developed a CCTV system to support public safety operations in the nation's capital during major events, emergencies, or times of heightened alert for terrorism. The CCTV system was originally scheduled to be activated in late September 2001, but was pressed into action on the morning of September 11, following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The CCTV system monitors public spaces, with a focus on critical installations that have been identified as potential terrorism targets.

a. CCTV for Homeland Security

The Homeland Security CCTV System is comprised of a secure, wireless network of 18 permanently installed cameras owned and operated by the MPD. These cameras are mounted on various buildings primarily in the downtown DC area. They focus on public spaces around the National Mall, the US Capitol, the White House, Union Station and other critical installations, as well as major arteries and highways that pass through downtown DC. Under DC regulations, additional cameras can be added to the network on a temporary or permanent basis following a period of public comment. During exigent circumstances, additional cameras can be deployed on a temporary basis without advance public notice, but with a post-deployment notification to the public.

CCTV camera feeds are displayed in the MPD's Joint Operations Command Center (JOCC), a secure facility located on the 5th Floor of police headquarters. The JOCC is operated by the MPD, but may include staff from other federal, regional, state and local law enforcement agencies during joint operations. The CCTV system is not a round-the-clock monitoring operation. The system is activated only during major events in the District (such as large-scale demonstrations, the Fourth of July celebration, presidential inaugurations or major investigations such as the October 2002 sniper shootings) or during periods of heightened alert for terrorism.

The following is a list of the Homeland Security CCTV camera locations:

- 1000 block of Jefferson Drive, SW
- Pennsylvania Avenue & 15th Street, NW
- 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
- 700 block of 18th Street, NW
- 200 block of Constitution Avenue, NW
- 700 block of 19th Street, NW
- 19th Street & Dupont Circle, NW
- 100 block of Vermont Avenue, NW
- 400 block of L'Enfant Plaza, SW
- 1100 block of Connecticut Avenue, NW
- 1100 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2 cameras)
- 800 block of Vermont Avenue, NW
- Wisconsin Avenue & M Street, NW
- 1000 block of Nineteenth Street, North (Rosslyn, VA)
- 3600 block of M Street, NW
- 500 block of North Capitol Street, NW
- 1300 block of Wisconsin Avenue, NW
- 300 block of Independence Avenue, SW

The JOCC was activated for the following events during calendar year 2007:

- Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2007 New Years Eve Activation
- January 2, 2007 Washington D.C. Mayoral Inauguration
- January 22, 2007 Right to Life March
- January 23, 2007 State of the Union Address
- March 17-18, 2007 ANSWER Anti War Protest
- March 24, 2007 National Marathon
- April 13-16, 2007 World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings
- June 8-9, 2007 All Hands on Deck
- June 23, 2007 Caribbean Festival
- July 4, 2007 Fourth of July Celebration
- July 27-28, 2007 All Hands on Deck
- October 19-22, 2007 World Bank/IMF Fall Meetings
- November 2-3, 2007 All Hands on Deck
- December 7-8, 2007 All Hands on Deck

b. Neighborhood-based Cameras to Combat Crime

In August of 2006 the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) began to deploy cameras to help combat crime in District of Columbia neighborhoods. Begun under the previous administration, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and Chief Lanier have continued this program with strong support of the community. The Neighborhood-based Camera System is comprised of a secure, wireless network of 73 installed cameras owned and operated by the MPD. The cameras focus on public space only and operate 24 hours a day. In general, they are "passively monitored" by MPD, meaning that officers generally do not watch the camera feeds in real time. Rather, camera images are recorded and then reviewed by police if there are reports of criminal activity in the area. Video recordings are kept for ten (10) days, unless the MPD knows that the recordings contain evidence of criminal

activity or an occurrence that may subject the MPD to civil liability. In these instances, the recordings are kept until final disposition of the case.

In addition, MPD will actively monitor the cameras at times to help prevent and detect crime. As with all camera operations, live monitoring sessions are strictly governed by DC regulations and MPD policy. Except in exigent circumstances, live monitoring is pre-approved, in writing, by the Chief of Police.

The Metropolitan Police Department's use of CCTV is designed to ensure the protection of personal privacy rights. The CCTV network provides video images of public spaces only, and the cameras are not equipped with audio overhear capabilities. The cameras can pan at 360 degrees and tilt at 180 degrees. The cameras do have the capability to zoom in on a particular location, but are used primarily to monitor wide areas of public space. The CCTV system does not use face-recognition or any other biometric technology. Both DC regulations and strict internal MPD policy expressly prohibit the arbitrary monitoring of individuals or monitoring of individuals based on race, gender or other factors. Regulation and policy also prohibit the use of the CCTV system for the purpose of infringing on First Amendment rights.

Neighborhood-based Cameras by District

District	Site Name	Date Installed
1	100 block M St., NW (by First Place, NW)	8/29/2006
1	1500 block 1st St. SW (by P St., SW)	8/31/2006
1	15th & East Capitol St., SE	9/19/2006
1	18th & D St., NE	9/18/2006
1	19th St & Rosedale St, NE	6/25/2007
1	200 block of K St, SW	6/25/2007
1	400 block 16th St., NE	9/18/2006
1	4th St & L St, NE	6/25/2007
1	8th & H St., NE	9/20/2006
1	K St & Potomac Avenue, SE	6/25/2007
1	K St. & North Capitol St, NW	9/18/2006
1	Unit block K St., NW (Temple Ct.)	8/18/2006
2	Connecticut Avenue & Porter St, NW	6/25/2007
2	Wisconsin Ave & Albemarle St., NW	6/5/2007
2	Wisconsin Ave & P St., NW	9/22/2007
2	1400 block R St., NW	8/28/2006
3	11th St & N St, NW	6/26/2007
3	1400 block Oak St., NW	9/15/2007
3	14th & Columbia Road, NW	9/15/2006
3	14th & Girard St., NW	8/10/2006
3	14th & W St., NW	9/15/2006
3	17th & Euclid St., NW	9/18/2006
3	200 block of V St, NW	6/28/2007
3	2400 block 18th St., NW (north of Belmont St., NW, across from alley)	8/28/2006
3	5th & N St, NW	6/28/2007
3	5th & O St., NW	8/15/2006

Closed Circuit Television Annual Report of the Metropolitan Police Department

District	Site Name	Date Installed
3	7th & O St., NW	8/28/2006
3	9th & T St, NW	6/26/2007
3	Georgia Avenue & Morton St., NW	8/28/2006
3	Sherman & Harvard St, NW	6/25/2007
4	14th & Quincy St., NW	9/18/2006
4	1st & Kennedy St., NW	8/30/2007
4	3700 block Georgia Avenue, NW	8/29/2006
4	4th & Shepherd St., NW	9/20/2006
4	4th St & Blair Road, NW	6/26/2007
4	5th St & Kennedy St., NW	8/29/2006
4	6th St & Riggs Road, NE	6/28/2007
4	9th & Kennedy St., NW	9/15/2006
5	1200 block Meigs Place, NE	8/29/2006
5	14th St & Saratoga Ave	6/5/2007
5	1st St. & O St., NW	9/18/2006
5	North Capitol & Seaton PL NW	10/9/2007
5	1700 block Lincoln Road, NE (by Randolph Place, NE)	8/28/2006
5	1800 block Benning Road, NE	8/15/2006
5	18th Place & M St, NE	6/26/2007
5	18th St & M St, NE	6/26/2007
5	21st & Maryland & Avenue, NE	8/28/2006
5	3700 block 12th St., NE (by Otis St)	9/20/2006
5	3700 block 12th St., NE (by Perry St)	9/20/2006
5	4th & W St, NE	6/26/2007
6	14th & Good Hope Road, SE	6/27/2007
6	1500 block Kenilworth Avenue, NE	9/20/2006
6	28th St & Texas Avenue, SE	6/4/2007
6	18th St & T St, SE	6/27/2007
6	300 block 50th St., NE	8/30/2006
6	3800 block Minnesota Avenue, NE	8/31/2006
6	4400 block Quarles St., NE	8/18/2006
6	4700 block Alabama Avenue, SE	9/20/2006
6	5000 block Benning Road, SE	9/19/2006
6	5000 block of Call Place, SE	6/27/2007
6	5100 block Fitch St., SE	9/19/2006
6	5300 block Clay Terrace, NE	8/23/2006
7	2600 block Birney Place, SE	6/5/2007
7	1200 block Valley Avenue, SE	8/10/2006
7	13th Place, SE & Congress St., SE	8/30/2006
7	1500 Block of Butler St, SE	6/5/2007
7	2300 block Pitts Place, SE	9/21/2006
7	2400-2500 block Elvans Road, SE (by Stanton Road, SE) (B)	8/30/2006
7	2400-2500 blocks of Elvans Road, SE (A)	8/30/2006
7	4200 block of 4th St, SE	6/28/2007

District	Site Name	Date Installed
7	Ainger & Langston Places, SE	8/30/2006
7	Congress St. & Savannah Place SE	9/19/2006
7	Stevens & Wade Roads, SE	9/21/2006

3. Evaluation of Neighborhood-based CCTV System Effectiveness

The neighborhood CCTV system was initiated in the summer of 2006 to help combat a spike in violent crime. The Phase I installation of 48 cameras was rolled out in August and September 2006. The initial evaluation of these cameras showed a strong reversal in the spike in violent crime. In light of this, the city embarked upon Phase II, installing an additional 25 cameras in 2007. In the seventeen months since cameras were first installed in DC's neighborhoods, the cameras have continued to have a positive impact on public safety in the city.

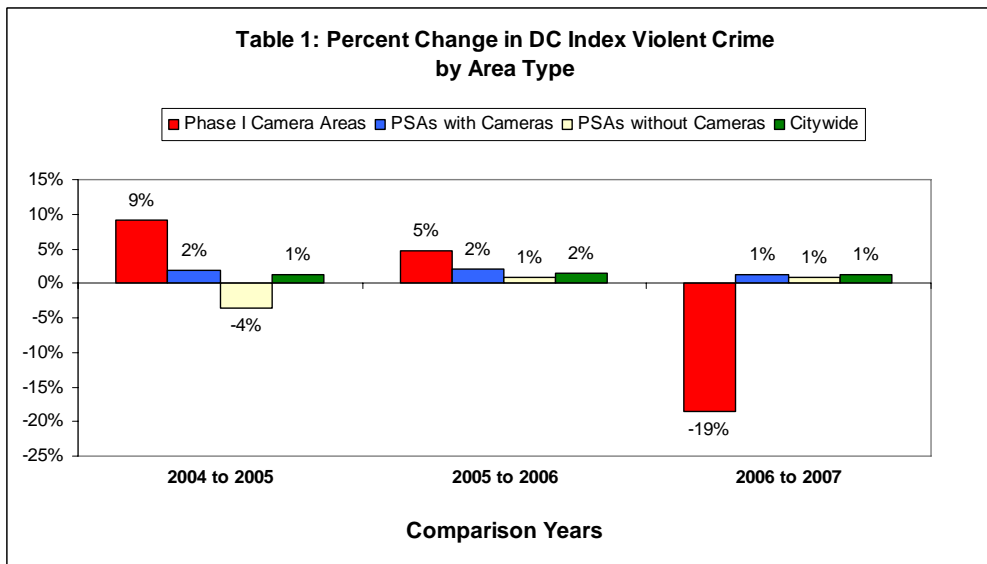
a. Prevention

As specified in the regulations, the Department evaluated trends in crime¹ and calls for service in the areas immediately surrounding the cameras (within a 250 foot radius), in the Patrol Service Areas (PSAs) with cameras and without cameras, and citywide to assess the impact of the cameras. Although the regulations specified that the analysis should compare PSAs with and without cameras, the comparison with the citywide data is probably the stronger analysis.² The analysis is based on the Phase I cameras only as the Phase II cameras were installed in the middle of 2007. The data indicate that the CCTV areas outperformed—had a greater reduction than—the comparison areas for key indicators: violent crime, property crime, and calls for service.

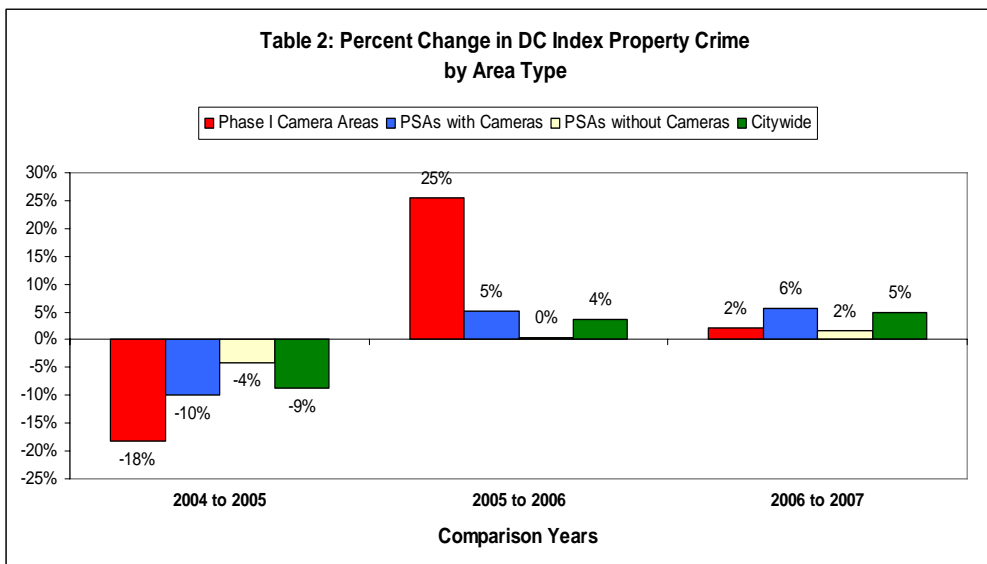
¹ The crime statistics reflect DC Code Index offenses. The number of DC Code Index offenses may change in the course of investigations are classifications change or crimes are unfounded. Violent crime figures include Homicide, Sex Abuse, Robbery, and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon offenses. Property crime figures include Burglary, Theft, Theft from Auto, Stolen Auto, and Arson offenses.

² PSAs with and without CCTV cameras are not a strong comparison set. For one, with the addition of 25 cameras in 2007, there are neighborhood CCTV cameras in 32 PSAs, or two-thirds of all PSAs. These sample groups are not only quantitatively unequal, but are qualitatively different as well. The cameras were, by design, placed in neighborhoods with higher crime trends, so there should be no expectation that the crime trends would be similar except for the intervention of the CCTV cameras. In addition, the PSAs themselves are not a standard size. The impact of a single camera to crime trends in a PSA would depend on the size of the PSA and the number of cameras.

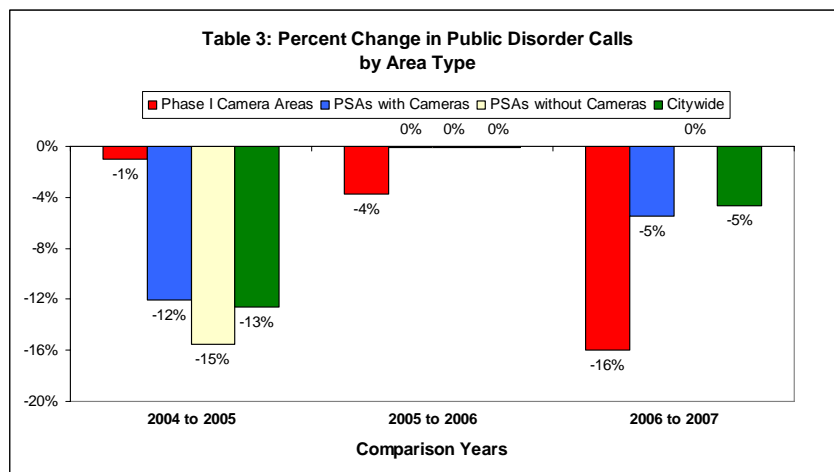
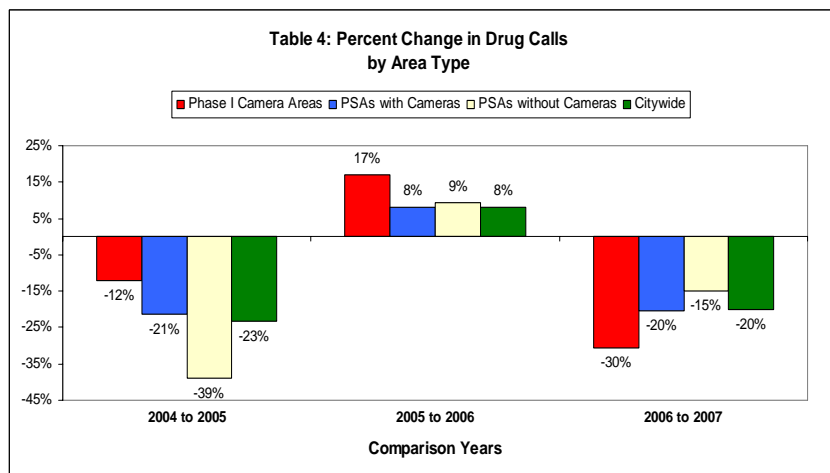
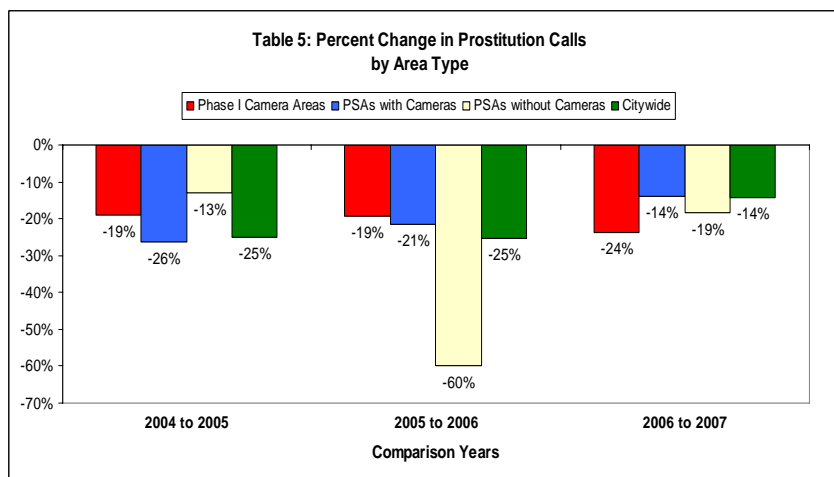
- i. **Violent Crime** - In 2007, violent crime within 250 feet of the cameras decreased 19 percent when compared to 2006. This is a significantly better performance than the comparison areas, all of which showed a 1 percent increase in violent crime in 2007. (See Table 1)



- ii. **Property Crime** - Although property crime increased 2 percent in the camera areas, the cameras still appear to have had a positive impact. For one, property crime increased 5 percent citywide during the same time period. Less obvious but perhaps equally important, property crime in the camera areas skyrocketed in 2006, with a 25 percent increase over 2005. Given that, the 2 percent increase in 2007 represents an significant reversal in the trend for the area. Indeed, almost all of the increase in 2006 occurred in the first seven months before the cameras were installed. From January to July 2006, property crime increase 52 percent over the first seven months of 2005. In contrast, in the last five months of 2006, property crime in the camera areas *decreased* 2 percent over the same period in 2005. (See Table 2)



- iii. **Calls for Service** - The Department looked at three key types of calls for service for incidents that frequently occur on public space: calls for service for public disorder, drugs, and prostitution. Overall, calls for service for these incidents decreased in all comparison areas in 2007. In the camera areas, however, the calls for service decreased 10 or 11 percent more than in the citywide areas, indicating that the CCTV system may be contributing to a reduction in these types of incidents in neighborhoods with cameras. (See Tables 3-5)



b. Detection

Given the significant resource demands to actively monitor CCTV, Chief Lanier is working to strategically target the monitoring by using data to identify trends in activity that may be precursors to violence. For instance, Chief Lanier has instituted regular tracking and analysis of calls for service for sounds of gun shots. Since an increase in sounds of gunshots often indicates a “beef” or argument that is heating up, MPD will then monitor cameras in the area to help detect suspicious activity and provide important information to other MPD resources, such as patrol and intelligence. By strategically monitoring the cameras, MPD hopes to capitalize on CCTV as a detection tool.

Chief Lanier’s initiative to begin active, real time monitoring of the cameras has already yielded positive results. On one occasion, for example, members directed field units to a suspect in possession of narcotics that resulted in an arrest for Possession with Intent to Distribute - cocaine. The defendant is being held (pending trial) and the papering Assistant United States Attorney stated the CCTV images were critical evidence and valuable to the case. The CCTV Crime Cameras were also useful for monitoring during a prisoner escape in Laurel, Maryland, where the suspect fled to the District and committed a carjacking. Active monitoring has also proven valuable in non-criminal matters. Viewing members dispatched units to an individual with an apparently altered status lying in a heavily trafficked roadway, potentially saving the individual from serious injury. Although it is perhaps premature to evaluate the benefits of active monitoring for detecting crime, the practice has yielded immediate results.

c. Investigation

Since the first camera was installed in August, 2006 through January 1, 2008, MPD investigators have made 532 requests to view camera images possibly related to a crime.³ Of these requests to view, 144 images have been retained in support of criminal investigations and potential civil liability cases. The 144 images have been retained because the recording:

- Was discoverable material (112 cases)
- Assisted with suspect or witness identification (13 cases)
- Captured events prior to or after the crime (9 cases)
- Captured a crime in progress (7 cases)

The crimes captured in progress included four serious violent crimes: three homicides and one nearly fatal assault on a police officer.

- The first homicide occurred on July 24, 2007, in the 100 block of M St., NW. The CCTV images were vital evidence and led to the case being closed with the arrest of Devon Black.
- The second homicide occurred in August, 2007. The case is still open, but the CCTV images have been critical evidence in determining the events which occurred prior to the homicide.

³ In addition, the Department has received 12 requests to disclose images and/or information, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, from outside parties. For all but one of these requests, the data retention period had expired and images were not available for disclosure. One request was fulfilled with the image being provided to the requestor.

- The third homicide occurred in November, 2007. The case is still open. The CCTV image captured the homicide in progress and is therefore critical evidence in this case.
- An Assault on a Police Officer occurred on November 11, 2007 at Sherman and Harvard Street, NW. When officers attempted to capture a subject sitting in a stolen vehicle, the driver ran over an officer. The officer suffered serious damage to his leg, but was fortunate to survive this shocking assault. This case was closed with the arrest. The CCTV images are a vital piece of evidence in this case.

In an additional seven homicides, CCTV images have assisted in identifying suspects, identifying witnesses, and determining the sequence of events either prior to or after the homicides occurred. In each of these homicide cases, these retained CCTV images have become key pieces of evidence.

4. Strategic Vision

The Department is committed to continuing use of CCTV cameras as one tool to help it achieve its mission. This initial evaluation seems to indicate that the cameras are effective in deterring violent crime, reducing fear of crime, and supporting criminal investigations. The Department will continue to monitor the system effectiveness in these areas, as well as in its recent initiatives for strategic prevention.

However, the Department cannot say at this time how many cameras will eventually be part of the system as there are a number of factors to consider. The CCTV system is one crime-fighting tool that appears to be effective and certainly has significant support in the community. Nevertheless, city resources for public safety are limited, and the Department recognizes that decisions to invest in this tool are part of a broader discussion of city priorities and relative effectiveness. The Department will continue to monitor and report on the effectiveness of the CCTV system so as to inform public policy and budgeting decisions of the Mayor and Council. In the meantime, MPD will continue to explore ways to enhance the effectiveness of the system as a crime-fighting tool.

5. Fiscal Impact of Long-Range CCTV Plan

To date, the District of Columbia has invested approximately \$3.8 million (\$2.3 million for Phase I and \$1.5 million for Phase II) to purchase, install and operate the CCTV system. The 18 original homeland security cameras (purchased in 2000) will be replaced in 2008 at a cost of \$630,000 in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant funds.

The complex CCTV system, including both the cameras and the sophisticated digital network that allows the digital images to be transmitted back to MPD's Synchronized Operations Command Center, requires ongoing maintenance at an estimated annual cost in fiscal year 2008 of \$600,000.

6. Conclusion

The CCTV system acts as a "force multiplier," adding extra eyes in public areas throughout the city. This capability allows MPD to enhance public safety without diminishing neighborhood patrols or community policing efforts. The CCTV system has successfully enabled MPD to maintain a constant presence in target areas, to displace embedded crime and to monitor high-profile public spaces during major events and emergencies.

The CCTV system has proved to be a useful tool for recording images that may be used to investigate crimes and photos that can be used for evidentiary purposes. MPD has a robust vision for the future of the CCTV system and is working diligently to incorporate the capabilities offered by the system into other crime-fighting measures. This CCTV Annual Report is a snap shot in time regarding the status and potential of the program. The District, under Mayor Fenty's leadership, hopes to modify and enhance the CCTV program as technology and funding become available.



METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

www.mpdc.dc.gov