

August 20, 2016

## Boston Police Department, District 14, Public Safety Camera Enhancements. Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund For Allston and Brighton Grant Application – August 2016

### **Summary of Proposed Public Safety Enhancement:**

The objective of this proposed project would be to enhance the public safety in Brighton by deterring crime on the public streets and ways with the purchase of twenty to twenty-five public safety street cameras. These public safety cameras would be purchased, installed and maintained by the Boston Police Department. The units would only be deployed on public ways, south and west of Kelton Street, Warren St, Cambridge St and Washington St. Brighton, from the Brookline town line to the Newton city line, nearest the Boston College Campus. The locations of the cameras would be at the discretion of the Commander of the District 14 Police Station. These cameras would be installed on public property by the Boston Police Telecommunications Unit or their contractor. The units would be connected to the Boston Regional Information Center (BRIC) Fusion Center.

The need for these cameras in this particular area of Brighton is directly related to the ongoing high rate of Breaking and Entering's' into residences. In addition, we expect they will also have a positive effect in eliminating or reducing, Property Crime, Home Invasions, Peeping Toms, Robberies and Indecent Assaults that affect homeowners, residents and students. The cost of each unit and installation is approximately \$5,000. We had originally intended to seek about 40-50 cameras but due to the current Funding limit we have lowered the number of proposed units to stay within the framework of the Grant. Any future costs for maintenance, updating, re-deployment would be borne by the City of

Boston Police Department. We are requesting a Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund Grant of \$100,000.00 to cover the costs of this project.

### Review Criteria:

The Boston Police Department's (BPD) mission statement is: ***"We dedicate ourselves to work in partnership with the community to fight crime, reduce fear and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Our mission is neighborhood policing."*** Working closely with the community, issues are identified and together police, residents, and business owners develop viable solutions. In this spirit we have listened to citizens who have requested that the Boston Police Department stay current with technology to keep their neighborhood as safe as possible. Having this Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund available will allow us to bring this highly valued technology to Brighton. Without this funding source this technology would not be deployed to assist in deterring crime and identifying perpetrators of crime in Brighton.

Currently, the City of Boston has approximately 400 cameras spread throughout the City mainly owned by the Boston Police Department and the Boston Transportation Department. The camera video monitors are not being watched 24/7, 365 days, but do record so that they can be reviewed if an incident occurs. During special events they are monitored by City of Boston staff for various situations as they arise. These videos and those of private parties have been highly useful in solving crime by identifying criminal perpetrators. The current cameras or these proposed cameras will not have any facial recognition software and will mainly be used to review any incident that may have occurred but may be viewed during a Special Event.

The Community Oriented Policing Services program (COPS) of the U.S. Justice Department has reported that the overt use of cameras is the most productive way to reduce crime. Allowing criminals to know the cameras are present and active has shown reductions of crime in some locales of up to 60%. In addition, beyond the reduction of crime, other benefits include the reduced fear of crime and aiding in police investigations. The BPD is highly cognizant of the Constitutional Rights of citizens and will only allow the cameras to monitor public places and will prevent the cameras from being used to tilt or zoom in beyond public places. The experience that the Boston Police Department has gained over the past five years using cameras I believe is a major factor our ability to keep the City's crime rate exceptionally low compared to other U.S. cities.

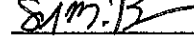
The Boston Police Department has been in operation since 1854 and as such has been involved with the protection and safety of the community for over 150 years. The District 14 Community Service Office has partnered with many community members and groups on a daily basis to make Brighton the safest neighborhood in Boston in which to live, learn and work. During the last round of BC Neighborhood Improvement Funding we were able to obtain a Grant for the purchase of two Speed Board monitors that we expect to be in place by October 2016. In recent years, three Brighton War Memorials have been refurbished and rebuilt with funding provided by the Browne Fund. We have promoted and staffed the

Police Athletic League (PAL) soccer, Road to the Right Track children's sports and fitness program and also our Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program, enhancing our outreach into the community. The BPD at D14 has partnered with many in the community to form the Brighton District Court Community Service Worker Program that is used to have wayward students' payback the Brighton community by performing community service within Brighton. We attend as many community meetings as possible to stay informed of the needs of the community and to make suggestions to better Brighton.

Your assistance in providing the funding for this enhanced public safety technology to the Boston Police Department at District 14 is highly appreciated. Thank You.

January/February 2017	Bid Process and procurement of units
May/June 2017	Deployment and Installation

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn Burns, Sergeant

Supervisor-D14 Community Service Office

Attached: Letters of Community Support



**Brighton Main Streets, Inc.**

A Boston Main Streets Initiative

In Partnership with New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc.

August 24, 2016

To the members of the Boston College Task Force:

Brighton Main Streets supports the grant proposal put forth by the D14 precinct of the Boston Police Department for the purchase of public safety street cameras. We support this project for funding by the Boston College Neighborhood Improvement Fund for the following reasons

- It will dramatically improve public safety in our neighborhood
- It will help police to identify perpetrators of crime
- It will reduce fear of crime among residents and business owners in Brighton

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of our organization.

Sincerely,

*Ali Carter*

Ali Carter  
Executive Director