



Jonathan C. Webb
Acting Superintendent

Deborah Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

Raymond Kelly Richardson
Deputy Superintendent

To: Eileen Donoghue *EMD*
City Manager

From: Jonathan C. Webb
Superintendent of Police

Date: July 31, 2018

Re: Council Response

Councilor Conway – Request the City Manager work with Lowell Police Department on the installation of surveillance cameras in high narcotics trafficking/usage areas throughout the city.

Several surveillance cameras have been installed at various locations around the city. The cameras are linked to the network that covers the police station and the JFK Plaza area. Areas covered throughout the city include schools, parks, high crime areas, and congested downtown areas. Funding was provided for this network under the city Capital Plan. The cameras are monitored in several locations staffed by police department supervisory staff, and provide coverage of real time activity, as well as the ability to view previously recorded footage.

The police department has the ability to change camera locations as needed in order to respond to changing criminal activity. This includes moving cameras to monitor suspected drug activity. While this is one of the purposes the camera network is used for, recent changes in technology have served to make the drug trade less dependent on location based sales activity. Drug transactions are now arranged by cell phone calls and text messaging, and frequently take place in moving vehicles to evade law enforcement surveillance. The police department constantly evaluates the information gathered from the surveillance system, and camera locations are changed as needed in response to crime trends, including possible drugs sales and use.