

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

### 2. Enhancing Public Safety through Real-Time Access to the City's Traffic Camera Network

Submitted by: Councillor Montague and Councillor Meiszner

#### WHEREAS

1. The safety and security of Vancouver residents, visitors, and businesses is of paramount importance to Council and to the City of Vancouver;
2. An effective and efficient response to crime, major events, emergencies, and serious incidents is essential to maintaining public order and the safety and security of everyone in our City;
3. The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) is committed to serving and protecting the community with the utmost dedication and professionalism;
4. Utilization of modern technology is a critical component in fulfilling the VPD's 21st-century commitment to serving and protecting the community and maintaining public order and the safety and security of everyone in our city;
5. The City of Vancouver has an extensive network of traffic cameras strategically placed at intersections throughout the city to monitor traffic: Approximately 221 cameras across the city;
6. Canada-wide, police departments' access to municipal camera systems varies widely by jurisdiction. Generally speaking, municipalities operate traffic cameras for public safety, traffic management, and bylaw enforcement, with access to these camera systems ranging from real-time monitoring of cameras to later retrieval of recorded video footage upon request for investigative purposes;
7. Many large urban cities across Canada are already providing varying degrees of access to City cameras to assist police agencies. For example, traffic camera footage from Surrey – [publicly released by IHIT and the RCMP](#) – was instrumental in the arrests of three individuals who are now charged with the first degree murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in June 2023;
8. At present, the City of Vancouver's traffic camera network is not accessible to the Vancouver Police Department. Moreover, the live feed from traffic cameras is not recorded and stored for after-the-fact investigative purposes;
9. The City's traffic camera network could be a valuable tool for the VPD in their efforts to safeguard the community by enhancing situational awareness, improving the speed and coordination of law enforcement responses, in crime prevention and investigation, and protecting the rights and property of the city's inhabitants;

10. Real-time integration and access to the City's traffic camera network by the Vancouver Police Department could significantly enhance the VPD's operational capabilities by providing real-time visual information that allows for a more effective and efficient deployment of police resources to incidents as they occur, not only for quicker response times but also for more informed and effective decision-making in critical situations; and
11. Without question, VPD access to the City's traffic camera network must be balanced with the right to privacy of the citizens, ensuring that any use of the traffic camera network by the Vancouver Police Department is conducted with the utmost respect for these rights with guidelines to prevent misuse and to maintain public trust in law enforcement practices.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council confirm its interest in providing Vancouver Police Department with real-time access to video captured by the City of Vancouver's traffic camera network, to aid police officers on a needs basis in responding to incidents such as, but not limited to, in-progress crimes, missing persons cases, priority 9-1-1 calls, natural disasters, and other major events;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to analyze the technical, financial, and legal implications of providing such access to the Vancouver Police Department and report back to Council by Q1 2025.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back regarding the operational, financial, and legal implications of recording all video captured by the City of Vancouver's traffic camera network and maintaining the recorded data for a period of seven days to allow time for the recordings to be made available to VPD upon request for investigative purposes;

FURTHER THAT the report back consider the establishment of clear guidelines through a formal agreement between the City of Vancouver and the VPD to govern the use, storage, and dissemination of such video footage to ensure public trust.

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