

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members
FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager
DATE: September 18, 2024
TITLE: DISCUSS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF “PROJECT BLUE LIGHT PROGRAM,”
AUTHORIZING PRIVATE BUSINESS CAMERAS TO HAVE A DIRECT FEED INTO
THE REAL-TIME INTELLIGENCE CENTER.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration supports a program/project of this nature and will continue to research potential paths to implement “Project Blue Light.”

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

At the June 26, 2024 City Commission Meeting, at the request of Mayor Steven Meiner, the Mayor and City Commission approved a referral (C4 AP) to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (“PSNQLC”) to discuss the implementation of the Project Blue Light program, authorizing private business cameras to have a direct feed into the Real-Time Intelligence Center.

ANALYSIS

The Administration, through various departments (Police, Information Technology, Facilities, and Fleet Management), is designing and building the Real-Time Intelligence Center (RTIC) at Police Headquarters. This facility is envisioned and designed to provide operational support for the Police Department's real-time response and investigative efforts. Over the last several years, Police Technical Operations personnel have been testing, evaluating, recommending, and ultimately, with the support of the Mayor and Commission, acquiring and implementing systems that have propelled the use of the technology in the City's day-to-day operations. One of the many programs seen throughout the country and ultimately desired in the City of Miami Beach is a public-private partnership for non-city-owned CCTV systems and the RTIC. The intended outcomes of these programs vary by the jurisdictions in which they are implemented. Some are geared toward rebuilding trust between community stakeholders, while others serve as crime deterrence measures by prominently displaying signs or “lights” symbolizing the partnership with the respective law enforcement agency. A similar program/project in Miami Beach could serve as both.

The requirements for a project of this nature vary by the type of implementation that is to be considered. Among these are the following:

1. Testing, evaluating, recommending, and procuring a technology partner/solution that facilitates the program/project
2. Identifying /implementing how the network traffic for the CCTV systems will be transmitted to the RTIC
3. Considerations regarding live viewing or recording into the City's Video Management System
4. Considerations regarding who will be responsible for the cost of hardware/software to network the non-City-owned CCTV System

5. Creating an acceptable framework for legal indemnification by all involved parties
6. Establishing expectations of the Public-Private Partnership

Police Technical Services personnel attended the National Real-Time Crime Center Association's Annual Conference from August 25 to 29, 2024. There, they discussed best practices and innovative solutions and networked with industry professionals on the latest technology solutions in the space.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The fiscal impact of "Project Blue Light" is unknown at this time and will depend on the exact nature of the implementation when it occurs. Future funding needs will be presented for consideration by the Mayor and Commission.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission support the creation of a Public Private Partnership such as "Project Blue Light" once all previously identified items for consideration are resolved.

Applicable Area

Citywide

Is this a "Residents Right to Know" item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Police/IT

Sponsor(s)

Mayor Steven Meiner

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Project Blue Light camera program implementation