



**9.1** **MOBILE CCTV TRAILER**

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**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To advise Council on the requirements and confirmed costings for the purchase and implementation of a mobile closed-circuit television (CCTV) trailer.
- 1.2 To provide an update on Council's funding submission to the Department of Justice and Community Safety's (DJCS) Building Safer Communities Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile CCTV trailer.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The 2020/2021 summer season saw an increase in hoon driving and related antisocial behaviour. Victoria Police borrowed the City of Stonnington's mobile CCTV trailer, and positioned it in Port Melbourne. The mobile CCTV trailer was well received by the community.
- 2.2 The Public Place CCTV Policy, which was endorsed by Council on the 4 December 2019, indicates that any new public place CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
- 2.3 On the 3 February 2021, Council received a Petition from the community regarding dangerous hoon driving and vehicle noise in the municipality. The resolution requested officers to:
  - provide Council with a report to consider the requirements and costings for the purchase and implementation of a mobile CCTV trailer in partnership with the Port Phillip Police Service Area by July 2021.
  - to submit a joint application with Port Phillip Police Service Area to the DJCS's Building Safer Communities Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile CCTV trailer.
- 2.4 An application to DJSC's Building Safer Communities Grant Program was submitted on the 15 March 2021 for a mobile CCTV trailer, valued at \$117,120.
- 2.5 If successful, Council would be responsible for the provision, and ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure associated with the mobile CCTV trailer, plus insurance, registration and data costs, estimated at approximately \$5,000 per year.
- 2.6 If unsuccessful, the Council would need to amend the current policy if Council wanted to fund a mobile CCTV. The purchase of such an asset is currently not funded within the draft budget.



### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Notes the submission to the Department of Justice's Building Safer Communities Grant Program for \$117,120 to acquire a mobile CCTV trailer as per the Council resolution on 3 February 2021 has been submitted.
- 3.2 Notes Council would need to budget \$5,000 per annum to cover maintenance, insurance, registration and data costs for the infrastructure.
- 3.3 Resolves to purchase a mobile CCTV trailer if successful with grant application.
- 3.4 Notes that the current public place CCTV policy indicates that any new public places CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
- 3.5 Delegates to the CEO the ability to make necessary amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to include a mobile CCTV trailer.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### Background

- 4.1 Hoon driving events became more frequent in St Kilda and Port Melbourne over the 2020/2021 summer period. Many of the incidents were organised groups and often attracted large crowds.
- 4.2 The excessive speed and dangerous driving compromised the safety of bystanders and had a detrimental impact on residential amenity and community safety. Residents reported antisocial behaviour including violence, excessive noise, property damage and public order offences associated with unlawful hoon driving. Incidents included: -
  - An unpermitted car show on the evening of 26 December 2020 in Port Melbourne. It attracted a large number of spectators, with numerous vehicles being parked illegally, creating traffic hazards. Victoria Police attended and dispersed the gathering.
  - Regular hoon activity in Beacon Cove resulting in a number of resident complaints and ongoing safety concerns. In response, Victoria Police attached a temporary CCTV onto local restaurant and placed the borrowed mobile CCTV trailer in the carpark.
  - Regular hoon activity along Pier Road, which resulted in Council providing permission to Victoria Police to close the gates to this road early when behaviour was a concern. Hoon behaviour on this road has been an ongoing issue and various traffic interventions have not all been successful.
  - On the evening of 21 January 2021, a large crowd of people gathered and blocked off Marine Parade, St Kilda, to watch cars do illegal burn outs and play loud music. Rocks were thrown at police vehicles which were damaged. Police had to deploy capsicum spray to disperse the crowd. This incident attracted significant media attention.
  - On 3 February 2021, Council tabled a petition from community members in relation to speeding, hoon activities, noisy vehicles and antisocial behaviour in Port Melbourne.



- 4.3 Victorian Police are the lead agency for responding to hoon activity. Council works closely with Victoria Police in relation to public safety issues but does not have the statutory powers to respond to criminal and antisocial behaviour such as speeding and dangerous driving.

Victoria Police launched Operation Archilles in February 2021, which targets illegal and dangerous driving. As part of this Operation, fourteen people have been arrested in relation to the alleged illegal hoon meet that occurred at Marine Parade, St Kilda on 21 January 2021.

- 4.4 A petition regarding concerns about hoon activity and related antisocial behaviours was presented to Council, on the 3 February 2021. The resolution requested that officers: -
- prepare a report to consider the requirements and costings for the purchase and implementation of a mobile CCTV trailer in partnership with the Port Phillip Police Service Area by July 2021.
  - to submit a joint application with Port Phillip Police Service Area to the DJCS's Building Safer Communities Grant Program for the purchase of a mobile CCTV trailer.

#### **Mobile CCTV Trailer – Requirements and Costings**

- 4.5 Council's Public Place CCTV Program maintains CCTV cameras in and around key public spaces, with the aim to create a safer environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in Port Phillip. All footage is livestreamed to St Kilda Police Station.
- 4.6 There are currently four Victorian Government funded CCTV systems operational in the City of Port Phillip. These are: -
- Fitzroy Street, St Kilda
  - Little Grey Street Precinct, St Kilda
  - St Kilda Foreshore
  - Acland Street Precinct, St Kilda
- 4.7 The proposed mobile CCTV trailer would extend the existing Public Place CCTV Network. The mobile CCTV trailer would be used for both active monitoring (e.g. days of increased visitation such as public holidays and weekends, events and specific police operations) and passive monitoring (e.g. high crime locations).
- 4.8 The mobile CCTV trailer would be owned by the City of Port Phillip. Council would be responsible for the provision, and ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure associated with the mobile CCTV trailer, plus insurance, registration and data costs. Victoria Police would be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the cameras and monitoring of the network. All footage would be owned by Victoria Police. The trailer would be stored in a secure carpark at St Kilda Police Station to ensure that it is readily available.
- 4.9 The mobile CCTV trailer's visual impact is anticipated to deter antisocial and criminal behaviour, as was demonstrated in January 2021 when a borrowed CCTV trailer was positioned in Port Melbourne targeting hoon driving, with great success.
- 4.10 The agile nature of the CCTV trailer will enable it to be responsive to antisocial and criminal behaviour, allowing it to move locations unlike the permanent CCTV systems.



#### **DJCS Building Safer Communities Grant Program**

- 4.11 Council officers submitted a grant application to the DJSC's Building Safer Communities Grant Program on the 15 March 2021 for \$117,120, to acquire a mobile CCTV trailer. The scope of the proposed project includes the design, supply, installation, configuration, testing and documentation, plus sign writing of the trailer.
- 4.12 It is anticipated that the outcome of the grant application will be announced by the DJCS in mid-June 2021.
- 4.13 The DJCS will enter into funding agreements with successful applicants. A requirement for all funded CCTV projects is that the successful applicants must enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Victoria Police for the management and operation of the system and access to footage.
- 4.14 The City of Port Phillip already has a MoU with Victoria Police that oversees the Public Place CCTV Network including operation, management, use and evaluation of the CCTV Network. Minor alterations to the existing MoU are likely to be required due to the agile nature of a portable CCTV device.

#### **Public Place CCTV Policy**

- 4.15 The Public Place CCTV Policy was endorsed by Council on the 4 December 2019.
- 4.16 The intention of the policy is to support Council decision making in relation to any future proposals for the application of CCTV in public places within the City of Port Phillip.
- 4.17 The policy indicates that any new public place CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.

### **5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 5.1 The Community Safety Plan was developed in consultation with community members, local traders, Victoria Police, community service organisations, government agencies, internal staff, and via the 'Have Your Say' website.
- 5.2 The Community Safety Plan articulates that the use of CCTV must be balanced with evidence for need, appropriateness of location and citizen's privacy.
- 5.3 On 3 February 2021, Council tabled a petition from community members in relation to speeding, hoon activities, noisy vehicles and antisocial behaviour in Port Melbourne.
- 5.4 Prior to submitting a grant application to the DJSC's Building Safer Communities Grant Program on the 15 March 2021, Council officers worked in partnership with Victoria Police to consider the required scope for the proposed mobile CCTV trailer equipment.

### **6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Council has an obligation to effectively manage public spaces in its jurisdiction and powers and to balance the various uses and opportunities with public safety considerations.
- 6.2 Antisocial behaviour and incidents of crime can impact on the reputation of the City and increases negative perceptions of safety. Council investment in Public Place CCTV systems assist Victoria police response.
- 6.3 Council's Public Place CCTV Network meets obligations under relevant legislation like the *Privacy Act 1988* and *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.



- 6.4 The use of the existing Public Place CCTV Network is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Police to ensure the integrity of the system and that data access remains in keeping with privacy laws.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 7.1 The Public Place CCTV Policy, which was endorsed by Council on the 4 December 2019, indicates that any new public places CCTV systems should only be progressed by Council when State or Federal Government funding has been acquired.
- 7.2 Whilst the Victorian Government may contribute to initial funding for the mobile CCTV trailer via the Building Safer Communities Grant Program, Council is responsible for the ongoing maintenance, insurance registration and data costs of the infrastructure, estimated at approximately \$5,000 per year.
- 7.3 Council has previously accepted the responsibility for owning, managing, maintaining and licencing each existing Public Place CCTV System for their functional lives.

## **8. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 8.1 The implementation of a mobile CCTV system has been in response to community concerns about ongoing antisocial and dangerous behaviour. These concerns have been received directly by officers, Councillors and Victoria Police. A Petition was also received by Council on the 3 February 2021 on this topic.
- 8.2 The mobile CCTV trailer was effective and well received by residents when used at Beacon Cove, and saw a reduction in hoon behaviour in this area.
- 8.3 The Fitzroy and Little Grey Street CCTV Final Evaluation Report indicated that criminal activity had reduced by 58% in Fitzroy Street and the surrounding neighbourhood since the introduction of the CCTV system in 2016 (Crime Statistics Agency, April 2019).
- 8.4 The CCTV system has had a positive impact in addressing traders' concerns in relation to antisocial behaviour, which they believe is having a negative effect on precinct vitality and trade.
- 8.5 Victoria Police have indicated that the extension of the CCTV Network via portable means will work to improve public safety and security by supporting Police to identify, locate and respond to crime more effectively.

## **9. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

- 9.1 Direction 1 of the City of Port Phillip Council Plan 2017-2027 articulates that Council is working towards a 'Safe and active community with strong social connections'.
- 9.2 The Community Safety Plan, which takes a holistic, multifaceted approach to community safety was adopted at the Council meeting of 4 September 2019.
- 9.3 The Public Place CCTV Policy provides assistance to Council in decision making in relation to any future proposals of the application of CCTV in public places. The policy was endorsed by Council on the 4 December 2019.

## **10. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **10.1 TIMELINE**

- It is anticipated that the outcome of the grant application will be announced by the DJCS in mid-June 2021.

# MEETING OF THE PORT PHILLIP CITY COUNCIL 19 MAY 2021



- Officers will notify Councillors of the result of the grant application through an Operational Update.

## **11. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

11.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.

**TRIM FILE NO:** 80/04/23

**ATTACHMENTS** Nil