



November 2020

From the Mayor's Desk

Keeping Our City Safe: Security Cameras to be Installed

The City Council and I consider community safety of utmost importance. Gwinnett County Police Department (GCPD) provides excellent service to our residents and businesses, but we felt there was more that we could do to enhance the safety of our city.

At our October meeting, the council and I approved a contract for 25 license plate reader (LPR) cameras to be installed along the city's main thoroughfares.

The information collected by the cameras will assist GCPD in solving cases such as those involving stolen vehicles, entering autos, thefts, property damage and more. Data that is collected from these cameras will only be accessed by the GCPD. The city will not access the data, and it will only be stored for 30 days.

The new cameras are solar-powered and will be mounted on 10-foot poles. Each will be positioned to collect data from vehicles entering the city. The locations of the 25 cameras were selected by the GCPD. Attached is a map showing the camera locations.

The cameras will be part of a larger data base to address the gap in camera coverage of public right-of-way in our city. Peachtree Corners has relatively low crime rates, however, we have state and county roads that run through our city that carry over 150,000 vehicles daily. Adding an additional crime-fighting tool that GCPD can use makes our city that much safer. Below is additional information.

Question: How do these cameras work?

Answer: The cameras will take still photos of objects that enter the camera's field of view. For vehicles; the data will include a timestamp, a vehicle's make, color and license plate. The cameras operate 24 hours per day.

Question: Do the cameras collect video footage too?

Answer: No. The LPR cameras capture still images. Police use the information to identify vehicles that are associated with illegal activity and or are of interest to police. A real-time alert is sent to GCPD for vehicles that meet the criteria.

Question: Will these cameras capture images of automobile traffic only?

Answer: No. While the 25 cameras will be positioned to maximize the collection of automobile images, the cameras are designed to photograph any moving object including pedestrians.

Question: When will the cameras be installed?

Answer: We expect the installation to begin in December of this year; the average installation is 6 – 8 weeks.

Question: What sort of statistics are available that support the use of LPR cameras?

Answer: There are 7 million property crimes that occur every year. Unfortunately, only 13% are solved because police need more evidence. These LPR cameras give law enforcement the evidence they need to solve crimes.

Question: Will the city own these cameras?

Answer: No, the cameras will be leased. Maintenance, repairs and replacement are included in the lease.

Question: How much do the cameras cost?

Answer: The annual lease is \$2,500 per camera per year. The cost is part of the city's 2020-21 budget.

The council and I are pleased to be able to provide this important service to our citizens. If you have any further questions, please contact me or City Manager, Brian Johnson at City Hall, telephone, 678-691-1200.

Stay safe everyone,

Mike Mason, Mayor

