

AGENDA



Thursday, December 16, 2010

**Police
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 32**

Subject: Approve an ordinance accepting \$250,000 in grant funds from the Downtown Austin Alliance; and amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Police Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20100913-002 to appropriate \$250,000 for the Downtown Public Safety Camera Project.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available from the Downtown Austin Alliance from May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2012. Related to Items #44 and #45.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Patti Robinson, APD Assistant Chief / 974-5030

The Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA) currently supports the Downtown Ranger Program as an effective tool in addressing public order issues and making the downtown area safer for citizens and visitors. Downtown Rangers are Austin Police Department (APD) civilian employees who enhance public safety by being a visible presence in downtown Austin and serving as a deterrent against crime. In addition to the current effort, DAA will provide \$250,000 for a public safety camera project in the downtown area, specifically defined as the Downtown Public Improvement District (PID).

The Public Safety Camera Project assists the Police Department through the use of overt cameras in public areas in the identification of criminal activity as it is occurring, the prevention and deterrence of criminal activity, and the capture of video evidence to support prosecutions in cases of criminal activity. The primary use of the cameras will be to enhance public safety in areas where the safety and security of individuals are at risk. The cameras are to be installed at the direction of the Department, and installed and operated in such a manner that will protect individual privacy rights. The decision to place cameras in specific locations will be made based current crime data, large crowd events and community requests. With this funding and federal grants, 23 public safety cameras will be installed and maintained in the downtown area.