

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Proposed Amendment to Alcohol Ordinance 2014**

The use of video cameras in commercial establishments are mutually beneficial to both the police department and business owners. Having video cameras can be a deterrent to someone considering to commit a crime. Additionally, the cameras record criminal acts should an incident occur. In many cases, where video is available, the police department is able to collect a copy of the video and distribute it to officers, the media and other agencies and ultimately identify the perpetrator(s) of the crime. Video cameras assist business owners in managing loss prevention (internal theft) and allow for owners to identify untrustworthy employees saving the business money in stolen property.

Currently, we have 40 stores in the city who are licensed to sell alcohol by the package. Because these types of businesses are more inclined to be victims of robberies and thefts, we believe the camera systems need to be a requirement. Many of those stores (35), either have no camera systems or have a substandard system that does not provide adequate video recordings for Investigators to make identification of suspects involved in criminal activity. Five of the businesses have adequate video systems and are able to provide the Investigators with video. In some instances, the stores who do have video, albeit not of good quality, have delayed or refused to provide the video to the police department. As a result, it has been difficult at best to solve those crimes. While we certainly recognize the right of the business owner not to cooperate with the investigation, not providing a copy of the video to Investigators potentially impacts other businesses that the same criminal might victimize.

Under the proposed ordinance, any business establishments licensed to sell alcohol by the package for off premise consumption would be required to install and maintain in proper working order security cameras. The video camera system would have to meet minimum specifications that will provide quality video images. The ordinance would also include the provision that cameras must be placed in certain locations within the business. Additionally, the ordinance would require that the licensee make accessible to law enforcement the film, video, or digital media upon request. The camera systems would be subject to periodic inspection of the police department to ensure its effective operation.

The average cost of a security system is a \$1,000.00 depending on the number of cameras required and quality of the system the business selects. The average amount of money taken in a robbery city wide is approximately \$1,000.00. Thefts at businesses both internally and externally cost businesses thousands of dollars each year. If passed, I believe the ordinance would have a positive impact on the department to resolve crime related issues within the city.

It is the recommendation of staff that the proposed ordinance be adopted by the City Commission. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration to this request.