

13-0486

PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

APR 24 2013

The recent bombing tragedy in Boston shows the important role that closed circuit video surveillance and other digital imagery plays as a force multiplier for law enforcement. Not only did the images captured that day allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to quickly identify suspects, they also may have helped to flush the suspects out into the open following the posting of the images on the FBI website.


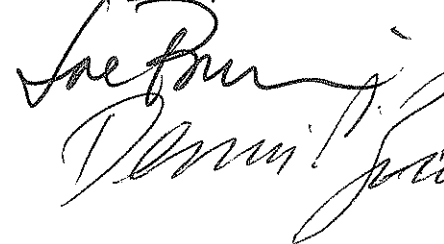
Advances in technology are continuing to provide new tools to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to fight crime and keep communities safe as well. LAPD's ability to capture and review video footage ranges from surveillance cameras maintained by LAPD that target high-crime areas to automatic license-plate-recognition systems (ALPRs), small cameras mounted on patrol cars that scan license plates for stolen vehicles and help monitor the movements of wanted felons and sexual predators.


Other City departments also use camera monitoring systems to fulfill their missions. The Department of Transportation (DOT) for instance, through the Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control (ATSAC) System, uses technology to improve traffic flow and adjust to changing traffic patterns. ATSAC is a computer-based traffic signal control system that monitors traffic conditions and system performance, selects appropriate signal timing strategies, and performs equipment diagnostics and alert functions. To supplement the information from electronic detectors, ATSAC also uses closed-circuit television equipment to monitor hundreds of intersections throughout the City.

To enhance the benefits of the current technology possessed by LAPD and DOT, the City should explore integrating these two systems through a split-feed and adding digital video recording and storage capability. This will enable LAPD to access recorded video footage for gathering key evidence, identifying suspects and their vehicles, and many other important benefits. In addition, the level of compatibility and capability to integrate other software, such as LAPD's license plate recognition software, should also be considered in the analysis.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, City Administrative Officer, Police Department, and Department of Transportation be instructed to report to the Public Safety Committee on the current level of integration and compatibility between the ATSAC camera system and LAPD's surveillance monitoring system; how the integration of these two systems can potentially be enhanced and/or modified and any associated costs; and the feasibility of adding new software capabilities and functions such as license plate recognition software and recording and storage systems.

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