

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**

May 24, 2011

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**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED CAMERA AND PHYSICAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

City departments have invested in various surveillance and security systems over the past decade to secure city facilities and protect citizens and property. Surveillance and security systems are being used by departments in a variety of locations with varying levels of sophistication to meet mission goals:

- TPW operates a network of cameras to monitor city roadways to ensure the safe movement of traffic on city streets.
- The Police Department operates an assortment of fixed and mobile cameras in high risk crime areas to protect against and prevent criminal and terrorist activity.
- Municipal Court's Marshal Office operates a network of surveillance cameras and electronic access control locks to secure city facilities.
- The Water Department employs cameras, access control locks, motion detectors and chemical sensors at critical water sites to protect against intrusion and ensure the safety of our drinking water.
- Additional independent systems are in place to monitor parking garages, illegal dump sites and other areas where remote observation and monitoring is a cost effective and efficient means to meet mission requirements.

Overall, the city gains enormous benefits through the use of surveillance and security systems. A growing challenge, however, is in leveraging the various systems, and the investment they represent, to get the video or lock controls in front of the right person at the right time.

Today, if the Police or Fire Department responds to an incident at a water facility or a city facility, the incident commander cannot access onsite camera feeds without the assistance of water or security personnel. During Super Week, incident command staff in the Joint Emergency Operations Center used two different camera viewing applications to monitor activity. This multi-platform use creates issues in terms of access to available camera information and training of operators. Additionally, there are other private and public organizations in Fort Worth who have invested in surveillance resources. In some cases, those organizations would be willing to allow city agencies to view select cameras, but again, different systems create barriers to sharing video information during emergencies.

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM), at the request of stakeholders from Water, Police, and the Marshal's Office, supported a proof of concept project in October 2010 to evaluate a common operating platform for video systems. The proof of concept called for demonstrating that a single viewing platform was capable of capturing and displaying video from Water, Police and the Marshal's Office at one time. Working with a private vendor, staff was able to successfully transport video feeds from each department into a common viewing application.

OEM, in partnership with ITS, is currently conducting additional research on common operating platforms for video systems that would allow any camera system supplier's video system to be viewed and potentially controlled from a single place. The diagram below offers an overview of how we hope to connect the various security and surveillance systems in the Fort Worth area. By investing in a common

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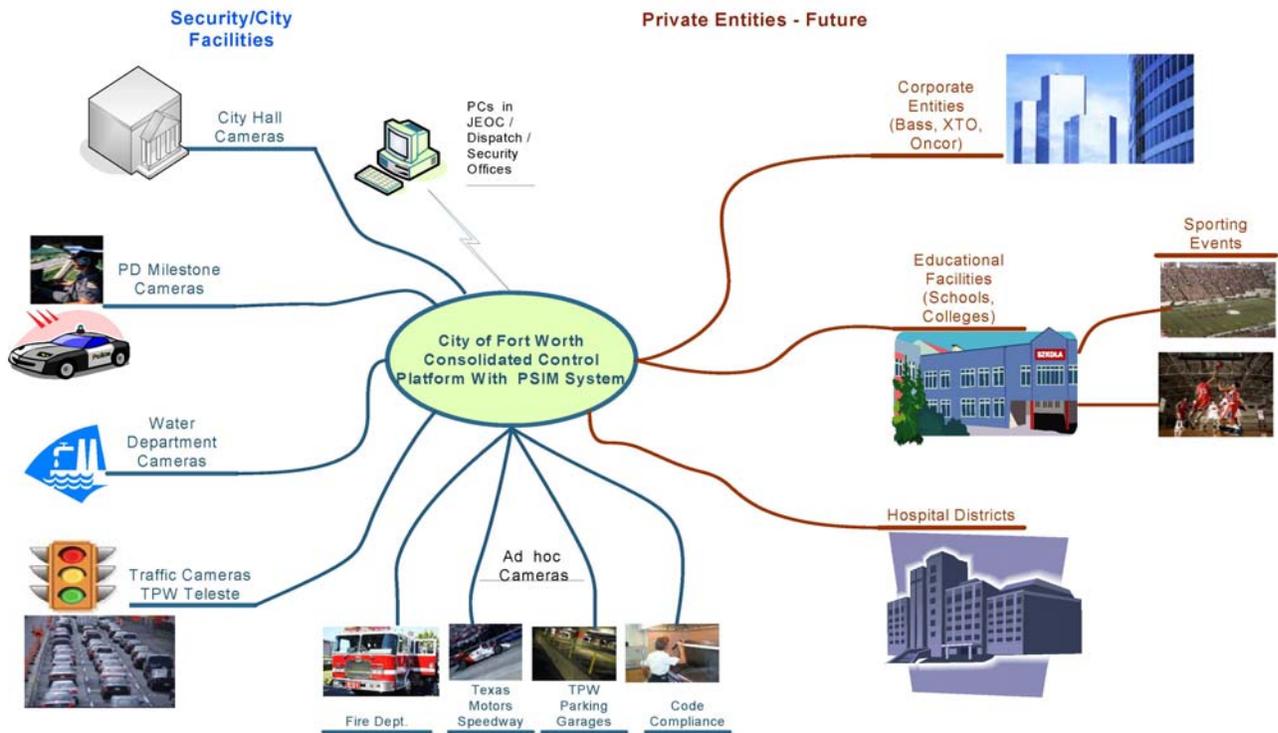


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software/platform to connect the different surveillance and security platforms, we believe departments can protect the investment in their current systems, while encouraging an economical alternative for sharing critical information (video) with public safety agencies. An important part of this concept is providing a way to securely connect with community partners who are willing to share their video resources with City public safety agencies.



**City of Fort Worth Consolidated Platform Physical Security Information Management (PSIM) System Overview**



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There are still several questions and issues staff is researching before a recommendation can be made on the type of system that will best meet Fort Worth's needs:

- Network Layout
- System scale (size, growth, phases)
- Cost sustainment
- Legal issues related to sharing video between the public and private sectors

A work group will be formed to discuss these issues with companies who can assist in developing and implementing a video fusion platform system for Fort Worth.

Staff plans to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the next two to three months for the design and deployment of a common operating platform for shared video systems. We will come back to Council in a few months to brief you on the results of our research and the RFP process.

If you have any questions, please contact Chief Rudy Jackson at 817-392-6805.

Thank you,

for **Tom Higgins**  
**Interim City Manager**