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December 19, 2018
For Immediate release:

Recent escalation of violent crimes has highlighted the need for expanded security measures across the City of Reading. The Reading Area Water Authority Board of Directors believes it maintains a significant role and responsibility in making the City a great place to live, work and invest.

In neighborhoods where people feel safe the property values increase, vacancies go down, water sales go up. Empty homes and businesses need to be made attractive through neighborhood revitalization. Cameras increase security, improve the quality of life and attract investors, expanding RAWA's customer base.

The Authority believes it needs to take an increased role in setting a distinct example of how a responsible government entity can work with private businesses to increase the quality of life in our service area. The Board therefore is supporting taking a leadership role in the creation of an initiative to incentivize investment in cameras across the entire City.

Cameras work. If obstacles for expansion exist, those obstacles need to be eliminated. This initial contribution is intended to be seed money for the creation of a program whereby people, businesses and stakeholders may contribute to see the City security increased and spur economic development.

It is the hope of the Board that other community leaders, businesses, economic development entities, individual donors and stakeholders will now have a specific program to make donations to, which will be directly used for the sole purpose of enhancing video surveillance in the City of Reading.

The Reading Area Water Authority is stepping up and contributing \$25,000.00 to the City Police Department specifically for camera expansion via this program and to remove any technological issues which restrict the expansion of the current City abilities.

The Reading City Camera Incentive Program will be administered by the Mayor's Office in conjunction with the Reading Police Department. Specifics will be developed in the coming weeks. The program will encourage residents, businesses, non-profits and religious institutions to install security camera systems on their property and register them with the Reading Police Department. This program is intended to help deter crime and assist law enforcement with investigations.

There are two ways to participate:

The Reading City Camera Incentive Program creates a rebate for residents, businesses, nonprofits, and religious institutions to purchase and install security camera systems on their property and register them with the Reading Police Department. The program will provide percentage rebates for any installation meeting the finalized guidelines for all eligible addresses. The percentage rebate will be exclusively for the cost of the camera(s).

The Reading City Camera Incentive Program will be used to create a data base of existing and future locations of cameras throughout the city to help investigators solve crimes quicker and more efficiently via a registration program which will include setting up a GPS map through the new GPS system which in 2019 will include the ability for RAWA to chart these locations.

The above is the foundation for the development of a system which is sorely needed. The Board encourages all other entities to join in this effort. Economic Development begins with taking care of the existing base. This is a great opportunity for improving the image of the safety of the communities.

Thank you for considering supporting this effort.