



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 29, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Harrison and Kesarwani
Subject: Budget Referral and Approving Installation of Cameras at Ohlone Park Mural

RECOMMENDATION

1. Pursuant to Berkeley Municipal Code 2.99.060, declare that a camera installed in Ohlone Park at the corner of Hearst Street and Milvia Street will provide benefits to the community that outweigh costs and concerns.
2. Refer \$6,000 to the FY20 November 2019 AAO Process for the purpose of purchasing and installing a surveillance camera.

BACKGROUND

Ohlone Park is a greenway that runs for five blocks through Berkeley, connecting our Downtown to the North Berkeley neighborhood and North Berkeley BART.¹ The park includes four children's playgrounds, a nationally recognized dog park, a four-sided mural commemorating the culture and legacy of the Ohlone people, a community garden, and many other amenities.²

Unfortunately, Ohlone Park is also the site significant illegal dumping³ particularly on the East side of the park between Milvia Street and Bonita Street. For over a year, there have been huge piles of garbage that pile up on the median strip adjacent to Hearst Street. Much of this garbage is next to the Ohlone mural, which should be kept clean out of respect for both the arts and the Ohlone heritage. In addition, this garbage is adjacent to the nearby tot lot, which needs to be kept clean and safe to protect children and families. This garbage presents a health hazard and falls into the bike lane. City Code Enforcement and Zero Waste staff have done an excellent job cleaning up these garbage piles as they occur, but preventative measures are appropriate to deter this dumping in the first place.

Security cameras are extremely effective at deterring crimes. In a Swedish scholarly study on crime deterrents, the existence of a security camera reduced burglaries about 25%,

¹ [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Parks_Rec_Waterfront/Trees_Parks/PARKS_OHLONE_PARK\(1\).aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Parks_Rec_Waterfront/Trees_Parks/PARKS_OHLONE_PARK(1).aspx)

² <http://ohlone.transbay.net/>

³ <https://www.jessearreguin.com/blog-1/2019/2/15/illegal-dumping>

other factors being equal.⁴ Security cameras are an effective enough deterrent to work even when the security camera is not real.⁵ Crime in San Pablo Park has reduced significantly since the installation of cameras, a success we want to replicate in Ohlone Park.

A safe and clean Ohlone Park is crucial to the quality of life for Berkeley residents, particularly in Districts 1 and 4. After the North Berkeley Senior Center re-opens in the summer of 2020,⁶ Ohlone Park east of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way will be a high-traffic area for people with physical disabilities in addition to its current use by children and families, and a park clear of debris will be even more important. Typical surveillance cameras, without any biometric analytics, deter crime effectively enough to improve the quality of life for our residents.

We request two camera without any facial recognition or biometric analytic capabilities.

This referral accompanies our referral to the November 2019 budget process for BigBelly trash cans which will also reduce debris in the park by preventing trash overflow in and riffling through the trash cans.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Installation of cameras at San Pablo Park cost \$30,000⁷ for 17 cameras. Assuming that the cost for wiring to a park is still significant, and to account for staff installation time, we estimate \$6,000 to purchase and install two surveillance camera from the AAO November budgeting process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In line with our Zero Waste goals.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, (510) 981-7140

⁴ Mikael Priks, *"The Effects of Surveillance Cameras on Crime: Evidence from the Stockholm Subway."* 2015.

⁵ <https://www.globalsecurityexperts.com/home-security/fool-a-deter-the-bad-guys-todays-smartly-designed-dummy-security-cameras.html>

⁶

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Health_Human_Services/Division_on_Aging/North_Berkeley_Senior_Center_is_Undergoing_Renovation.aspx

⁷ <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/03/15/security-cameras-now-live-at-san-pablo-park-in-berkeley>