

Information Item

Date: September 11, 2023

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager
Tom Kureczka, Chief Information Officer

Subject:
Informational Memo Regarding an Agreement with the Owners of Truliant Tower

Strategic Focus Area: Service Excellence

Strategic Objective: Ensure Service Delivery Efficiency and Effectiveness

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Information Systems staff installed and now maintains over 500 public safety security cameras at 28 different City facilities. Staff continues to work on the installation of new cameras at additional sites, including City facilities, parks, and swimming pools. Work plans for the next 18 months include the installation of new cameras at over 20 locations. Approved funding for these new cameras has been approved and is available for the new installations.

Video from the existing cameras is directed to the Winston-Salem Police Department Real Time Crime Center via the City's fiber network and wireless broadband technologies tied into the City's Data Centers, and through the internet with the use of cellular and cloud services.

To expand on the presence of cameras in the downtown area, staff reached out to Mr. Jason Tuttle, the Principal Partner of JTM Capital Partners, LLC, owners of the Truliant Tower building (formerly Winston Tower) on Main Street. Staff was interested in the possible use of the rooftop of the Truliant Tower as means of camera expansion and discussed with Mr. Tuttle the potential for a public-private collaboration.

Mr. Tuttle was very willing to work with staff and, with a community-spirited response, offered the use of the building's rooftop with no leasing cost to the City. Staff worked with the City Attorney's Office and Mr. Tuttle's legal team and recently executed an agreement for the placement of City equipment on the rooftop.

Staff has obtained a Purchase Order to procure four security cameras for the rooftop, one for each corner of the building. The video from the cameras will be directed over to the rooftop of City Hall via two wireless broadband antennas, with one on each rooftop. From there the video will be directed to the City Hall Data Center and then over to the WSPD Real Time Crime Center. Similar technology is already in use with the transmission of camera video from Winston Square, Fourth Street, and Corpening Plaza.

In addition to the new downtown camera video that will be available from the four cameras on the rooftop of the Truliant Tower, the agreement provides the opportunity to install security cameras at many other City locations. These opportunities exist using the wireless broadband antenna technology. Any location that can see (line of sight) the rooftop of the Truliant Tower will be a candidate for new security cameras.

Even if a line of sight is not present, there may still exist other paths for camera video to ultimately be shared with WSPD. If a location has a line of sight to another structure, such as a City-owned radio tower, City/County-owned radio tower, or City/County Utilities water tower, which in turn has a line of sight to the Truliant Tower, then cameras can be installed at that location and the video can be shared with WSPD.

Staff will continue work towards leveraging the Truliant Tower rooftop to serve as a core hub site for a mesh-like wireless broadband network and to expand the security camera platform to additional locations. Staff will provide periodic updates to City Council as the security camera platform expands and continues to provide a valuable service to the community.