



Rashi Kesarwani
Councilmember, District 1

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 13, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Author), Councilmember Susan Wengraf (Co-Sponsor)

SUBJECT: Authorize Installation of Security Cameras at the Marina and Request an Environmental Safety Assessment

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the following recommendations in order to address the recent dramatic uptick in reported crime incidents at the Berkeley marina:

- Request that the City Manager install security cameras and signage as expeditiously as possible as a long-term safety measure;
- Refer to the City Manager to perform an environmental safety assessment of the Berkeley marina with particular attention to the berther parking areas.

FISCAL IMPACT

Approximately \$120,000 for eight security camera locations at seven marina berther lots, including installation, signage, and other supplies.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The past several months have seen a dramatic uptick in reported crime incidents at the Berkeley marina. From March 6, 2020 through September 4, 2020, a total of 156 incidents were reported to the Berkeley Police Department and/or marina staff. The vast majority of the incidents have been reported more recently: since July 1, 2020, a total of 135 incidents were reported, with August alone seeing a total of 86 incidents. These incidents range in severity from disturbances, vandalism, and trespassing to assaults,

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boat theft, auto burglary¹ and vehicle theft². From the second day in August onward, every day of the month saw at least one incident report, with August 23 seeing nine reported incidents, while August 13, 16, 17 and 27 each had five reported incidents per day.

In the table below, we provide a summary of the type and frequency of reported crime incidents that have occurred since early March 2020. We note that the Office of Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani has requested crime statistics for the same period in 2019 and 2018 in order to gain a better understanding of recent crime trends.

Types and frequency of selected reported crimes at the Berkeley Marina, March 6 to Sept. 4, 2020

Type of Crime	Number of Incidents
Assault	2
Attempted Vehicle Theft	22
Auto Burglary	30
Disturbances	11
Felony Theft	2
Theft	9
Trespassing	6
Vandalism	14
Vehicle Theft	4
Weapons Found	2

Source: Berkeley Police Department and Marina staff

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani has met with several of the Marina live-aboard community members and berthers (people who pay to dock a boat at our marina) who have reached out to the District 1 Office for assistance. Our constituents have expressed frustration, fear, and dismay at the recent dramatic rise in reported incidents.

¹ In this case, according to California Penal Code 459, auto burglary can be defined as: forced entry into a locked automobile with the intent to steal the car or property within it. See: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PEN&division=&title=13.&part=1.&chapter=2.&article=

² Refer to the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Justice Information Services Division (<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2010/crime-in-the-u.s.-2010/property-crime/mvtheftmain>) which notes: "In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle."

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This item additionally requests an environmental safety assessment of the parking areas for the Berkeley marina. Because there is a varied nature to the types of crimes committed, a multi-pronged safety approach is necessary to help address the many concerns of the community and reduce the number of incidents. Constituent communications indicate that there is an urgency to addressing these issues using a variety of approaches as deterrents.

BACKGROUND

A 2011 report from The Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center notes that cameras can be an effective, fiscally prudent tool for preventing crimes and supporting investigations; and installation and maintenance of security cameras is less costly than the associated costs with crimes that take place without them.³

"Stationary security cameras affixed to City property or facilities" are not regulated under the Surveillance Technology Ordinance. (See BMC Section 2.99.020.1.i). As a result, stationary camera installation at the marina would be exempt from the requirements of BMC Chapter 2.99.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item has no impact on environmental sustainability.

CONTACT

Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani, District 1 (510) 981-7110

³ See La Vigne, Lowry, Markman and Dwyer's 2011 report: "Evaluating the Use of Public Surveillance Cameras for Crime Control and Prevention" https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/27556/412403-evaluating-the-use-of-public-surveillance-cameras-for-crime-control-and-prevention_1.pdf

