

## **Yucaipa to install city-wide video monitoring system**

Posted: Friday, March 28, 2014 10:32 am on

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The contract for the city of Yucaipa to install a city wide video surveillance system was approved unanimously at the March 24 city council meeting.

The contract was awarded to Leverage Information Systems out of Woodinville, Wash. The city approved \$117,028 for the second phase of the project and \$152,688 to fund phase three.

Phase one was approved on May 9, 2011 when staff presented a report to the city council that outlined a strategic plan for city video monitoring and included specific areas of the city in need of surveillance. The total cost of the systems was estimated at \$530,000, which council approved. At that time, 16 cameras were installed in the Uptown area, from Second Street to Bryant to protect artwork and record traffic in the area.

In 2013, the remaining phase one funds were used to install eight cameras at the community center to protect the solar panels, said Jason Underwood, city information systems administrator. Underwood said the Uptown cameras, while helpful to a point, have not met the needs of the police department. The self-contained cameras only hold three days worth of footage, and the data is not transferred to any type of computer system.

“Based on the needs identified, city staff concluded that a proactive camera and monitoring system was needed to address proactive policing. These systems have been implemented in neighboring communities, have improved the quality of life for citizens and have demonstrated measured results in crime prevention and protection of city assets,” said Underwood. The new “proactive” camera system will include a video management system, pan/tilt/zoom cameras, one way speakers, and wireless networking. The existing Uptown cameras will be able to tie into the new system, said Underwood.

Cameras are planned for city hall, the Seventh Street Park, Flag Hill Aggregation Point, the Transit Center, Hampton Road and Yucaipa Boulevard, the 13th Street Sports Complex, skate park, Avenue I Park and El Dorado Ranch Park. A viewing station for the footage is planned at the new police station, and eventually at city hall as well, although there would be no connectivity between the two, said Underwood. “In the case that citizens on patrol would be manning the cameras at city hall, they would not have access to the interview rooms, etc.,” he said. Mayor Pro Tem Tom Masner made the motion to approve the contract with councilman Dick Riddell seconding. The motion carried unanimously. The project is slated to begin in July.