



May 30, 2012

To: Mayor Schumm, Commissioners Amyx, Dever, Cromwell and Carter

From: Cathy Hamilton on behalf of the DLI Board of Directors

Cc: Chief Khatib, Sheriff McGovern

Dear Sirs:

The safety of Downtown Lawrence business owners, patrons, visitors and residents is of the utmost concern to our business association. For that reason, we enthusiastically support the efforts of the Lawrence Police Department and the Douglas County Kansas Sheriff's Department to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant with the goal of purchasing a surveillance camera system for Downtown.

We know that cameras are an effective deterrent to crime, and that the temporary cameras installed for the Final Four celebrations were a tremendous aid to law enforcement. A permanent system would help with crowd control for future special events and reduce vandalism, a concern of many Downtown merchants.

If a violent crime were to be committed, having the event recorded digitally could help, if not by identifying perpetrators but revealing potential witnesses.

DLI is highly appreciative of the coverage given us by the LPD. Officers Don Hix, Larry Lindsay and others do a commendable job keeping order in Downtown. But, they can't be everywhere and see everything. Camera surveillance would give them an extra tool to achieve their mission.

Thanks very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cathy Hamilton, Director
Downtown Lawrence, Inc.