

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 17, 2022

PREPARED BY: Deborah Glickman, Management Analyst

REQUEST: APPROVE THE EXPANSION OF THE UNITE PALM DESERT SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM TO ALLOW BUSINESSES AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OWNERS TO BE REIMBURSED FOR SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS PURCHASED AND INSTALLED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE CITY

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the expansion of the Unite Palm Desert Security Camera System Grant program to allow businesses and commercial property owners to be reimbursed for security camera systems purchased and installed without prior approval from the City.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On March 10, 2022, to deter crime and assist with security for Palm Desert businesses and property owners, the City Council approved one-time funding in the amount of \$20,000 to create the Unite Palm Desert Security Camera System Grant (SCS) program. The SCS program provides Palm Desert business and commercial property owners with a reimbursement grant up to \$500 to purchase and install security cameras in the interior or exterior of their location.

Currently, to be eligible for the grant, business and commercial property owners must do the following:

- Complete a Unite Palm Desert Security Camera System Grant application for staff review and approval.
- **After receiving grant approval**, purchase and install a security camera system of the applicant's choice at the property.
- Provide proof of registry of the security system with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's "Security Camera Registration Program."
- Retain and operate the security system in place for three (3) years unless replaced by an upgraded system at the sole expense of the business and commercial property owner.
- Complete a Unite Palm Desert Security Camera System Grant agreement with the City of Palm Desert and submit receipts for reimbursement.

Discussion

With this request, staff is seeking approval to lift the requirement to receive pre-approval from the City before purchasing and installing a camera system. Pre-approval was included in the original requirements to ensure that funds were available to applicants prior to their purchasing

equipment. Since demand for the grant has not been as high as anticipated, staff believes that removing the pre-approval requirement will allow the City to assist a higher number of businesses/property owners. Staff does not anticipate any negative ramifications to this change, as there is ample funding available (\$17,000), and grants will still be funded on a first come first served basis until funds run out.

If the pre-approval requirement is lifted, staff is proposing that business/property owners be able to apply for reimbursement through the grant without prior approval for camera systems that are purchased and installed on or after the City Council's approval date of March 10, 2022.

To ensure that as many Palm Desert businesses/property owners as possible are aware of the funding opportunity, the SCS program has been promoted in the following places:

- Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce
- Palm Desert BrightSide Newsletter
- KESQ
- Engage Palm Desert
- El Paseo Business Improvement District Meeting
- El Paseo Business Improvement District Newsletter
- Desert Restaurant Association

Since approval of the program in March, the City has received six (6) applications for the program. One business, Elder Love Thrift and Boutique, has completed its installation and been reimbursed. The other five businesses are in the approval or agreement phase. If all six applications are funded in the total amount of \$3,000, there will be \$17,000 remaining in the fund.

Staff has received requests from more than one Palm Desert business and commercial property owner to be reimbursed for a security camera system that was purchased and installed on or after March 10, 2022, without prior approval through the SCS application process. Since there are ample funds remaining for SCS grants, staff recommends updating the SCS program to allow businesses that install or have already installed systems on or after March 10, 2022, to apply to be reimbursed through the grant, once they register their camera system with Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The proposed change in the SCS policy would allow for the grant to assist a broader number of Palm Desert business and commercial property owners. The increase in security camera systems would also assist the Sheriff's Department because of the increase in the number of businesses and commercial properties that are registered on the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's "Security Camera Registration Program." All other requirements of the SCS program including receipts for the purchase and installation of the system, registration of the cameras with the Sheriff's Department, and pictures of the installed cameras, would remain the same.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds in the amount of \$20,000 have been allocated from account 4254430-4393000 for the SCS program. Currently, \$3,000 is encumbered leaving \$17,000 available to fund the additional grants. No additional funds are being requested.

REVIEWED BY:

Department Director:	<i>Eric Ceja</i>
Finance Director:	<i>Veronica Chavez</i>
Assistant City Manager:	<i>Chris Escobedo</i>
City Manager:	<i>Todd Hileman</i>

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Security Camera System Grant Program Updated Guidelines



PALM DESERT

UNITE PALM DESERT SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEM GRANT GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

To assist with security for Palm Desert businesses and commercial property owners, the City of Palm Desert has set aside one-time funding for grants in the amount of up to \$500 per business. Grants will be paid as a reimbursement to businesses and commercial property owners based on actual costs for the purchase and installation of security cameras.

REQUIREMENTS

Grantees will be required to do/submit the following:

- Purchase and install a security camera system on or after March 10, 2022.
- Register the SCS with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (www.riversidesheriff.org/761/Security-Camera-Registration-Program).
- SCS must remain in place for three (3) years unless replaced by an upgraded system at the sole expense of the business and commercial property owner.
- Complete an agreement with the City of Palm Desert and submit the following
 - A current City of Palm Desert Business License as of application date.
 - A completed W-9.
 - Proof of payment (up to \$500) for purchase and installation of SCS.
 - Image(s) of the installed SCS.
 - Proof of authorization for the signatory to execute legal documents on behalf of the business (i.e. most recent tax return, articles of incorporation, or Statement of Information).
 - Proof that all required City of Palm Desert permits, if any, have been attained. Contact the City's Permit Center to determine if any permits are required.

FEES

There are no fees associated with this grant unless permits are required.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Grants will be issued on a first-come-first-served basis based on receipt of Unite Palm Desert Security Camera System Grant application.
- Applications will be accepted as long as funding is available up to \$20,000.

QUESTIONS/INFORMATION

Contact Deborah Glickman, Management Analyst, dglickman@cityofpalmdesert.org or 760-776-6441.