



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

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Councilmember Yolanda Adrean announces installation of the first 50 state-of-the-art security cameras and license plate readers in Council District 8

ATLANTA – Atlanta City Councilmember Yolanda Adrean announced on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 that the Atlanta Police Foundation began installing the first 50 state-of-the-art video security cameras and license plate readers as part of phase I of the master plan for Council District 8. The devices will be integrated into the city's sophisticated Loudermilk Operation Shield Video Integration Center, where police can monitor images from more than 5,700 high-tech cameras throughout the city.

"Public safety and the quality of life for our communities is a primary concern for my constituents and therefore one of my top priorities," Adrean said. "These cameras and the technology they provide will offer critical data for our police department to both deter criminal activity and solve crimes that occur."

In December, Adrean contributed \$300,000 from her council budget carry forward account toward the purchase of security cameras. Her contribution was matched by the mayor's office, and private sector investment in cameras from businesses and residents has amounted to \$2 million thus far.

The master plan, which is a map of strategic locations where the cameras and readers will be installed, was developed in partnership with the Atlanta Police Foundation and the Atlanta Police Department by using data collected from crime statistics and patterns throughout the district.

"This conversation started with my community over a year ago," Adrean said. "It's been a top priority of mine. Certainly the recent increase in crimes in certain areas has made the installation more critical."

A longtime District 8 resident echoed the community's fears about criminal activity in the area.

“It used to be car break-ins. Now it’s armed robberies on a neighborhood street in the middle of the day. Homes are being broken into in the middle of the day. Home invasions are occurring in the middle of the day. Just recently a 13-year-old child was attacked at a bus stop for her cellphone,” she said. “It’s not just silly or petty crimes anymore. We are afraid.”

The resident, who requested that her name not be used, said neighbors are constantly looking for something that is out of place.

“We had another neighbor who was walking out to her car on a Sunday morning and was held up by gun point.” She said the cameras and license plate readers will make the community safer and be a mechanism for police to be able to find those committing crimes in the community.

“While we know the cameras and license plate readers will be a valuable tool, we also know that in District 8 we will need additional security measures, such as the ones Yolanda Adrean has been working with City officials on, in order to truly be a safe community,” the resident said.

The estimated project completion is the second week in March.

Adrean said other councilmembers also are engaged in the conversation of partnering with the Atlanta Police Foundation’s Operation Shield program including Alex Wan, Felicia Moore and Howard Shook.

“This innovative, state-of-the-art technology is expected to be one of the most robust and sophisticated video surveillance systems in the U.S.,” said Dave Wilkinson, president and CEO of the Atlanta Police Foundation. “We can never be too cautious when it comes to safety; and through the Operation Shield program, the public has the opportunity to personally be a part of addressing public safety concerns.”

Operation Shield is a collaborative initiative between the City of Atlanta and private-sector donors to help create a safer, more efficient way of policing through the use of advanced technology in video surveillance cameras and license plate recognition readers. Since its inception, the Operation Shield program has made great strides in improving situational awareness for emergency management agencies. It has enhanced public safety response times to regional crimes and has helped decrease crime rates in communities throughout the City of Atlanta.

For more information, please call Councilmember Adrean’s office at (404) 330-6051.

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