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Last update: March 30, 2007 – 10:06 PM

## 50 'eyes' on crime in north Minneapolis

Safety cameras will go up this summer to spot crime on the city's North Side. South Minneapolis has had success.

By [Terry Collins](#), Star Tribune

Hoping to replicate the early success of crime-fighting technology on the city's South Side, the Minneapolis City Council on Friday approved a plan to install a \$1 million safety camera system on the North Side.

The council unanimously voted for 50 cameras to go up in June in an area bordered by W. Broadway, and Lowry, Lyndale and Penn Avenues N. Police and volunteers will monitor the cameras at the Police Department's Fourth Precinct headquarters.

"It's been long overdue. We're excited," said Council Member Don Samuels, whose ward includes the area that will have cameras. "I had to exercise patience and encourage my constituents to do the same. We have now been rewarded for that.

"I anticipate great results."

Although violent crime in Minneapolis is down about 16 percent compared with this time last year, 11 of the city's 14 homicides this year have occurred on the North Side.

The cameras in north Minneapolis will work in sync with the city's other crime-fighting technology tool, ShotSpotter, which is a series of sensors that can pinpoint the location of gunshots so officers can respond more quickly. ShotSpotter was introduced on the North Side earlier this month.

Since then, one man was charged with reckless discharge of a firearm and police found a shooting victim within a minute of being shot.

Both crime-fighting tech tools were installed in south Minneapolis within the past year and have been widely praised for helping reduce crime there.

Other major cities with similar crime-camera programs include Chicago, Baltimore, New York and New Orleans. San Francisco, Philadelphia and Newark, N.J., are planning to install them.

While police in Chicago and Baltimore credit their camera systems with reducing crime, cities such as Orlando, Oakland, Calif., and Jackson, Miss., have abandoned part or all of their systems.

London, with some 6,000 safety cameras, is widely considered to have the most

extensive system in the world.

### **In other business**

- **Spray paint:** The council passed an ordinance that requires stores not to sell spray paint to those 17 and younger in an effort to help curb the city's growing graffiti problem.
- **Anti-graffiti program:** The council also accepted a \$42,500 grant from the National Council to Prevent Delinquency to fund a pilot program. Teens will be hired to work undercover this summer to see which businesses are selling spray paint to minors.
- **NRP:** After a lengthy debate, the council passed a measure recommending that the Legislature not take action this year on a House bill that would extend the city's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) 20 years past its 2009 expiration. The council insists it needs more time to discuss the program's governance structure and funding.

Mayor R.T. Rybak said that while the program has improved Minneapolis since it was implemented in the early 1990s, the city has changed and there should be talks about a program that reflects those changes.

Terry Collins • 612-673-1790 • [tcollins@startribune.com](mailto:tcollins@startribune.com)  
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