

Councilmember Todd's Letter to the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants

March 8, 2016

Mr. Christopher Dyer
Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
441 4th St. NW
Suite 727N
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Comments on the Proposed Regulations for the Private Security Camera Incentive Program

Mr. Dyer:

Through this letter, I am submitting comments on the proposed regulations for the Private Security Camera Incentive Program, published in the D.C. Register on February 12, 2016. Specifically, I am providing comments on section 4002.1, where the regulations outline the priority-eligible locations that would receive access to the program first. Under section 4002.1(d), the regulations propose to prioritize several PSAs in the Fourth District, including PSAs 402 and 403, which are located in Ward 4. While I fully understand the importance of funding those PSAs that have experienced a significant increase in public safety concerns, I believe that there are other PSAs that could greatly benefit from the expansion of this program. For example, it is my understanding that PSA 404 has experienced some of the highest number of incidents in Ward 4. For those residents living in PSA 404, an opportunity to purchase a camera through the District's rebate program will not only allow them to combat recent public safety issues, it will also help expand the coverage area for the Metropolitan Police Department. Additionally PSAs 406 and 407 have repeatedly seen public safety incidents related to property, including robberies. The residents living in these PSAs could potentially see resolution to many of those incidents if they are given an opportunity to participate in the private security incentive program.

The recently passed legislation which created this incentive program is a significant step towards keeping the residents of the District safe; however, I respectfully ask that your office amend section 4002.1(d) to include PSAs 404, 406, and 407. This will ensure that the program provides sufficient coverage to all of the areas of need.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me or my Legislative Director, Michele Blackwell at (202) 724-7774 or mblackwell@dccouncil.us if you have any questions.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon T. Todd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Brandon T. Todd
Councilmember for Ward 4