

Date: April 7, 2002
To: Rutgers Need You Foundation
From: Sarina Schemo, Class of 2005
Subject: **Dorm Security Pilot Program**

INTRODUCTION

Due in part to economic depression, the environs surrounding the Rutgers campus are high in crime. The college students' sense of recklessness and immaturity adds to the university's high crime levels. To create a safe campus community, I propose to the Rutgers Need You Foundation that the Bullet Camera model ST-113 security camera be installed in Livingston campus dorms as a pilot program for the university. This program would provide the university with hard information on the practical effects that the security cameras have on university crime. I have chosen Livingston campus due to budgetary constraints, and its reputation as the most dangerous campus of Rutgers University. I will start this proposal by showing the background information about crime at Rutgers and why this program is necessary. I will then give information about what other, more credible people think, and what other universities have done to combat this same problem. I will explain each step necessary to carry out my plan, and will discuss the exact breakup of costs.

Background

Before choosing Livingston campus as the site of the Dorm Security Pilot Program, three Livingston College students were interviewed. Each stated that Livingston has the reputation for high crime levels. One student informed me that just as in other dorms there are student security personnel ensuring that visitors are in fact the guests of residents, on Livingston campus these student security officers do not sit directly behind the door, but in the lounge adjacent to it. From the lounge, the student said, the student security personnel cannot and do not carry out this task. Another interviewee stated that the university police chief, Anthony Murphy, had sent out an e-mail crime alert informing the Rutgers community of a break-in in Quad 3 of Livingston campus

I have come across the following data, which was collected from various reports made to the Rutgers University Police. One of the contributing factors to the high crime rates at Rutgers is that the crime is coming in from surrounding areas where there are many economic problems. In these surrounding areas, Rutgers Police Department reports, from 1998-2000 there have been 4 reported cases of forcible sex offenses, 9 of robbery, 2 of aggravated assault, 22 of burglary, and 9 of motor vehicle theft. A college environment where young adults who may not be very responsible, live with their computers, televisions and credit cards available, are a good target for these crimes. Therefore, the proper precautions must be taken to prevent such occurrences.

In addition, I have found that the US Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education collected statistics on campus security at many Universities including Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Criminal offenses, specifically those in on-campus residence halls, have been recorded from 1998, 1999, and 2000. The number

of cases of burglary in on-campus residence halls was 36 in 1998, 41 in 1999, and 51 in 2000. There has continued to be a steady increase in this area of crime that could easily be prevented, or at least reduced by installing the surveillance cameras at the entrances to dorm buildings. In addition, this source shows that other crimes such as arson and negligent manslaughter have remained constant over time. Other offenses such as forcible sex offenses and aggravated assault have already begun to decrease, but should none the less be addressed and handled. One plausible way to handle this would be the implementation of this pilot program. Table 1 displays all reported criminal offenses in residence halls at Rutgers University from 1998, 1999, and 2000.

I feel that the pilot program would prevent things like this from happening in the future by providing a deterrent for potential criminals. The installation of security cameras in the Livingston campus dorms will show how deterrence serves to fight crime, thus providing the information needed to implement these same security precautions in all dorms at Rutgers University.

TABLE 1
On-campus Criminal Offenses in Residence Halls

	1998	1999	2000
Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0
Forcible sex offenses	13	19	10
Nonforcible sex offences	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0
Aggravated Assault	4	4	2
Burglary	36	41	51
Arson	2	0	2
Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0

RESEARCH

My research gives examples of other universities with similar problems and the ways that they tackled their own security problems and safety issues. I have also found the opinions of other, more accredited people than myself, on the issue so as to prove that this proposal is a beneficial and worthwhile program.

In an article about the University of Nebraska Lincoln, Angie Schendt (1995) discusses the benefits of installing surveillance cameras as an upgrade to dorm security, which on Livingston campus is now merely the slash card used to open the doors. She

points out that the cost of hiring someone, as a security guard would be far more than a camera at each entrance. Glen Shumman, Assistant Director of Housing said that although initially the cost may seem high, it would cut costs in the long run and still keep the building secure. She also discusses that the cost of installation would be included in the salaries of the Facilities Management Personnel currently employed at the university. This is exactly the type of thing that they are there to do.

Stamats Communications (2000), an educational consulting firm based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has found that prospective students now rate campus safety among the top five factors in choosing a school. If Rutgers University implements this program of tighter security, showing that it could be and will be a safer community to live in for four years of a college career, more high school graduates will apply to Rutgers. This could make a very good name for the university and make it safer for the students at the same time.

To ward off crime, colleges are trying everything from old-fashioned community policing to high-tech surveillance. For example, George Washington University and Louisiana State University have installed closed circuit cameras, which can zoom in to view potential problems. This is effective because if there is a crime report in the building, the tapes can be reviewed and any person who looks suspicious can be identified by zooming in for a better view and can subsequently be caught and punished. If people know that they can be tracked down even after the crime was already committed and even if they were not caught on the spot, they will be less likely to choose the dorms as their target.

Charles Nordan (1999), uniform patrol commander for Duke's public safety department discusses the problem of students propping doors open allowing anyone to enter their dorm buildings. This could be solved by installing cameras at each door, which will provide additional measures of security, forcing students to have their slash cards present and visible when entering the dormitories in order to assure that they are in fact residents there.

If Rutgers University would take the advice of the professionals that have been quoted in the research, and would follow in the footsteps of the other universities that were going through similar security and safety problems, the university would benefit greatly just like these other universities, which have reported their satisfaction with the program.

PROPOSAL

The solution to the problems mentioned is to install a surveillance camera at each entrance of the dorms on Livingston campus as a pilot program. These cameras will act as deterrents holding back people who should not be entering the buildings. If someone knows that there is a very good chance of being tracked down, they are less likely to commit the crime. The lack of security will be eliminated by this simple addition, which will allow the residents to feel more comfortable in their own bedrooms.

Implementation

Implementation of the proposed pilot program will be quite simple and will require minimal time and resources. It will take about 10 days to complete the installation being that the Facilities Management Personnel already have their everyday work that must be done on campus. Once the cameras are installed, they will be monitored by Fraternity and Sorority volunteers, as part of their community service programs.

The Schedule

The schedule for implementing is as follows:

1. Order 34 model ST-113 Bullet Cameras (Day 1).
2. Wait up to five business days for the delivery of the cameras (Day 2-6).
3. Install the cameras at each of the 34 entrance doors to the dorms on Livingston campus (Day 7-10).

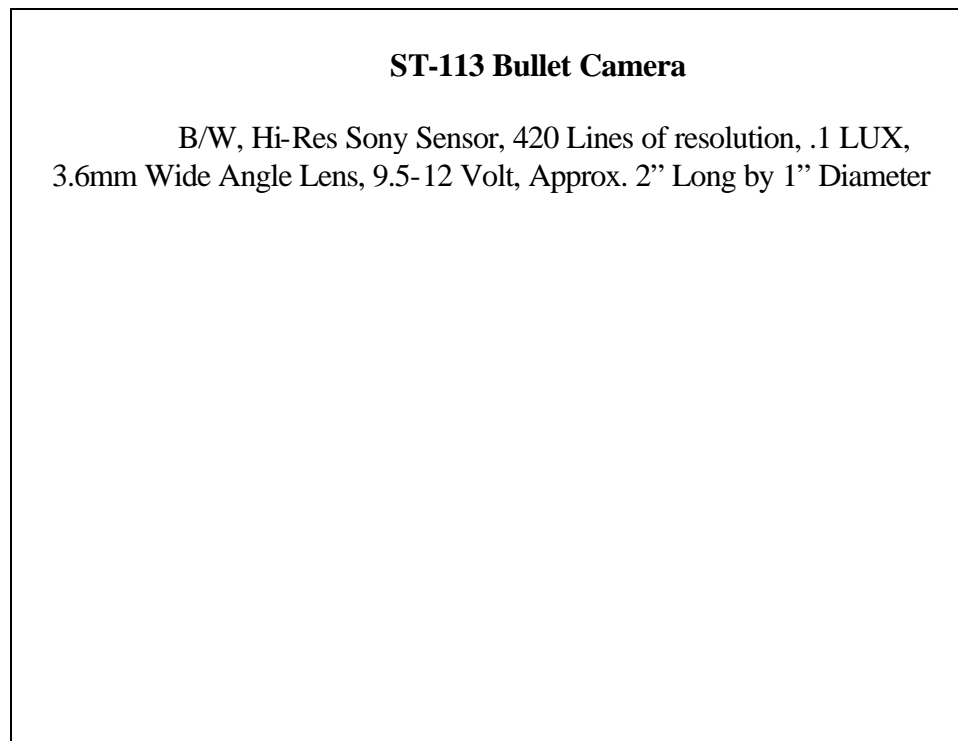


FIGURE 1
Bullet Camera

Explanation of Schedule

To implement the new program we must first receive the cameras. The camera in the figure above can be ordered from hiddensurveillancetechnology.com for \$147.00 each. First type in the web site, then click on Surveillance cameras and look for the correct model number.

Wait up to five business days for delivery. The cameras come complete with the mounting material needed for their installation.

Installation will be done by the Facilities Management Personnel who already work on Livingston campus. Thus, there will be no extra cost for the installation being that the university is already paying them for this type of work. This will be another one of their jobs.

Fraternity and Sorority volunteer groups will monitor the cameras as part of their community service programs. This will cut costs and give the students a way to actively improve their own community all at the same time.

BUDGET

The cost of implementing this proposed program is minimal. The only expense would be the cameras themselves. The delivery of all cameras is free. The total cost involved with initiating the proposed program is \$4,998. A breakdown of the expenses is shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2
Expenses Associated with Implementing Pilot Program

	Number	Price/Camera	Cost
Quad One	10	\$147.00	\$1470.00
Quad Two	10	\$147.00	\$1470.00
Quad Three	10	\$147.00	\$1470.00
North Ernest Lynton Tower	2	\$147.00	\$294.00
South Ernest Lynton Tower	2	\$147.00	\$294.00
Total			\$4998.00

Source: www.hiddensurveillancetechnology.com

CONCLUSION

The implementation of the proposed program would make the Livingston campus at Rutgers University a safer place to live, thus improving the atmosphere there. It will help

to rid the campus of its bad reputation and to build a fresh new reputation on campus. Though the proposed plan may seem a bit too costly or complex, it's efficiency and resulting benefits far outweigh the investments of the foundation. In addition, since this program is a pilot program, it will prove that the installation of these cameras does in fact reduce the frequency of crime. Once this is a reality, a total security program can be implemented for all dorms at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. This program will be accomplishing one of the exact goals of the Rutgers Needs You Foundation by starting a complete turnaround in the crime trends present at Rutgers University, which will eventually have a positive effect, reducing the crime in the entire city of New Brunswick and it's surrounding areas as well.

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