

Council Meeting of  
September 18, 2007

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: City Manager - Approve implementation of pilot project and appropriate \$15,000.00 for purchase of 4 camera units from Tripwire Systems to be used for graffiti abatement**  
**Expenditure: Not to exceed \$15,000.00**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends that Council approve the implementation of a pilot project and approve appropriation of \$15,000.00 from the Program Innovation Reserve Fund for the purchase of four (4) Tripwire camera units to be used for graffiti abatement throughout the City of Torrance.

**Funding**

Funds will be used from the Program Innovation Reserve Fund

**BACKGROUND and ANALYSIS**

The Special Multi Agency Response Team (SMART), an interdepartmental team of the City of Torrance, meets monthly to discuss and find solutions to quality of life issues that affect the City. One of the recurring topics on the team's agenda is the problem of graffiti. The City spends over \$220,000.00 annually on fighting and cleaning up this crime. There are multiple trouble spots in the City, with one of the relatively new favorite spots for vandalism being the Treehouse in Wilson Park.

After recommendation by the City Manager that SMART explore the use of cameras to monitor graffiti problem spots, staff from the General Services department identified a unique product from a company called Tripwire Systems based in Australia. Tripwire uses mountable, movable camera units that detect motion and heat. Once activated, they transmit an image to an email address or designated cell phone. These transmissions can be picked up by Community Lead Officers (CLO's) of the Police Department who can then act immediately, instead of after the fact, to potentially apprehend criminals.

Some of the benefits the Tripwire system offers are as follows:

- The design of the unit is not obvious to the eye and can be hidden, reducing the likelihood of vandalism of the unit
- The transmission is sent within 60 seconds of capturing the image and identifies the camera unit number and location

- A plug-in light and solar unit are included for long term use
- Transmissions from multiple units can be sent to one receiving device

The City of Long Beach has committed to the purchase of ten of the Tripwire cameras and has already scheduled implementation and training for late September. Torrance has the opportunity to join in on this purchase and secure four units for the same price as Long Beach.

The Communications Information and Technology Department of the City of Torrance is working with SMART to manage and monitor the technical requirements related to implementation and sustainability of this new technology.

SMART plans to launch this project as a pilot for a period of one year to determine how effective it is in fighting graffiti, as well as the potential it may have in addressing other quality of life issues. After a year's time, consideration will be given to the continuation of the program, as well as to the possible purchase of additional cameras, communication equipment, and service agreements.

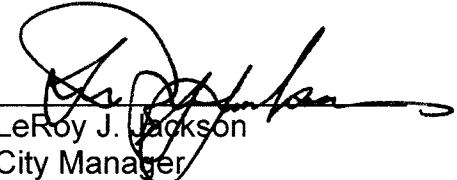
The City Manager recommends that Council approve this pilot project and allow for the appropriation of \$15,000.00 for purchase of four graffiti abatement cameras and related ancillary equipment.

Respectfully submitted,

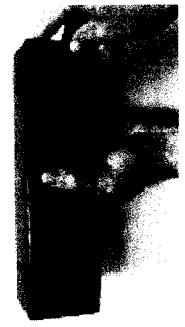
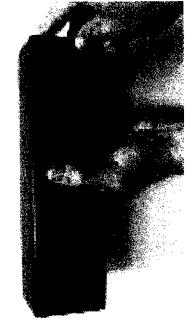
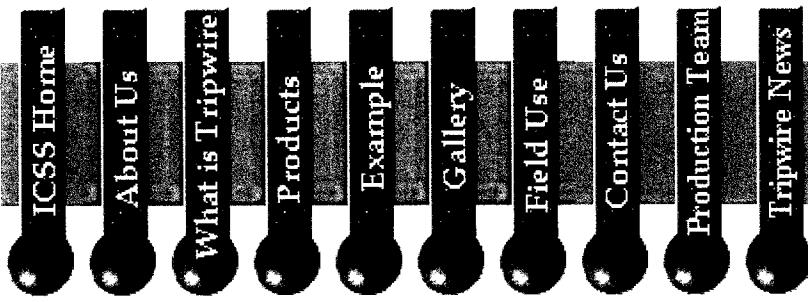
LeROY J. JACKSON  
CITY MANAGER

By   
Fran Fulton  
Management Associate

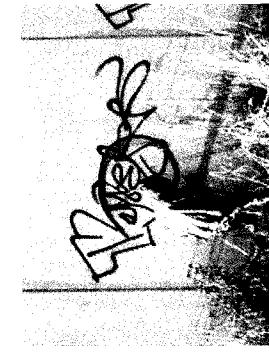
CONCUR:

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

Attachments: A) Product information from Tripwire Systems website



## FINALLY, AN INNOVATIVE SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS INSTANT IMAGES AND ALERTS TO BE SENT TO A DESIGNATED MOBILE UNIT WITHIN 60 SECONDS



Detected Graffiti Offenders  
photo taken Immediately

Instant Transmission  
Received in 60 Seconds

To Your Cell Phone or E-mail

Pro Active Apprehension  
Allowing a Stealth Arrest

**Whether monitoring 1 Tripwire Camera Unit or 100, All Can Be Set to Respond Immediately  
To One or Several Handsets - Allowing Quick Decisive Response**

http://www.tripwiresystems.com/fin1.html

## About Us



Tripwire Systems were developed as a joint Australian / American initiative instigated from our 14 years within the anti graffiti / vandalism arena. Our work in developing coatings, strategies, voice and flash deterrents expanded to include a rapid measure to allow the user to no longer have to rely on “After the fact” technology and information.

Tripwire systems are a very affordable means for either local communities or large rail corporations to utilise this technology to its full potential. Discussions with law enforcement and government departments assisted in devising the best solution possible to make solid apprehensions and higher witnessing of crimes possible to lead to solid convictions.

The excitement from every sector has been extraordinary with uses being suggested from stealth applications, mass transit property monitoring for graffiti apprehensions through to military and border patrol applications.

We hope you also will read through our information and realise the potential this very affordable system will produce in your specific arena.

Our flexibility in design and various client requirements will also allow you to further expand the systems use should you have other options in mind.

The system has taken well over 15 months to design and perfect to obtain the greatest detection range along with multiple features to make this one of the most valuable law enforcement tools available against property crime.

With interest coming from all industry types and many varied user types we look forward to being of service to you and your entity and hope our system will significantly increase and improve apprehension and arrest rates.



### WHAT IS “TRIPWIRE”

TRIPWIRE is a very new and innovative tool that has taken over 12 months and hundreds of hours to develop specifically for the police, security, community policing areas.

For years many criminals both minor and major use the lack of resources of these organizations to do their crimes. They rely on low man power, random security patrols to get away with and conduct their activity.

### THE CRIMINALS HAVE THE UPPER HAND ON YOU!

Some crimes have reduced, although very little, through the use of CCTV, security patrols and other means however these methods are often ineffective due to...

- After the event monitoring. (CCTV, VIDEO TAPE)
- Constraints and cost of systems ( CCTV very expensive, fixed location, hard wired)
- Ad Hoc random nature of security Patrols. (Offenders often see the patrols and escape before apprehension)
- Resources available after dark. (Reduced manpower during night time when most activity occurs).
- Successful convictions difficult due to crime not being witnessed and evidence not being strong enough.

### TRIPWIRE UNITS GIVE YOU THE EDGE, AND PUTS YOU BACK IN CONTROL!

Tripwire units were developed to give you the edge on criminal activity either before or as it happens.

Imagine knowing exactly where locations are being breached or activity is taking place even in the most remote locations, AS IT IS HAPPENING.

## SCENARIO

You have 5 tripwire units where known graffiti , vandalism, drinking occurs throughout a suburb that's always experiencing some trouble.

You don't have the manpower nor are drive by patrols effective because the offenders flee once spotted.

Your tripwire units once activated will solve your problem.

1/ The five units detect motion and heat up to 80'. (Typically set up in access or known after hours pathways. Lanes, drains etc)

2/ As soon as a unit detects motion it takes an image either covertly or with a flash)

3/ The unit transmits that image within 60 SECONDS to your email or designated cell phone. (One cell can monitor many units)

4/ The image you see is what was taken less than a minute earlier with text.. “Camera 6 activated. Lowry tunnel walkway”

5/ On reviewing the image you see 3 perp's walking or loitering in the area at 2.00am where known activity occurs.

6/ You decide to send a unit or notify the patrol to lay in wait and witness the criminal actions and arrest.

## THE BENEFITS OF THIS SCENARIO

- You have instant knowledge of areas that have activity AS IT HAPPENS. No wasted manpower patrols.
- You can have as many units active and have fewer patrols in wait for units to advise of activity.
- You can establish sting operations so once triggered, your in the area to move in covertly.
- You can witness the crime as it happens and not hear about it the next morning.
- You will increase apprehension success rates 10 fold.

**You will increase successful convictions due to actually witnessing crimes as they occur**

**THE PERPETRATOR WILL ASK YOU “ HOW THE HECK DID YOU KNOW WE WERE HERE”???????**

# RIP WIRE

## PRODUCT PAGE

Since its creation Tripwire has undergone multiple transformations to what we believe is the most user friendly, simple to operate, streamlined design

We have done away with designs that are obvious to the eye, although if you wish you can still mount the units on a typical universal type bracket which is included in the set.

The set as below is going to give you a ready to go set up for short, medium ,or long term use.

If you choose to use the unit as a short and medium term unit and decide that on site covert hides are the way to go then you simply leave behind the solar unit and light unit. All components are simple plug in so no tech's are required.

Our rule is that the unit has to be as easy to operate for a 15 year old, to suit everyone.

Here's what you get

**Main unit – Used alone for 2 week deployments**

**12 volt Battery pack (plug in) to extend time out.**

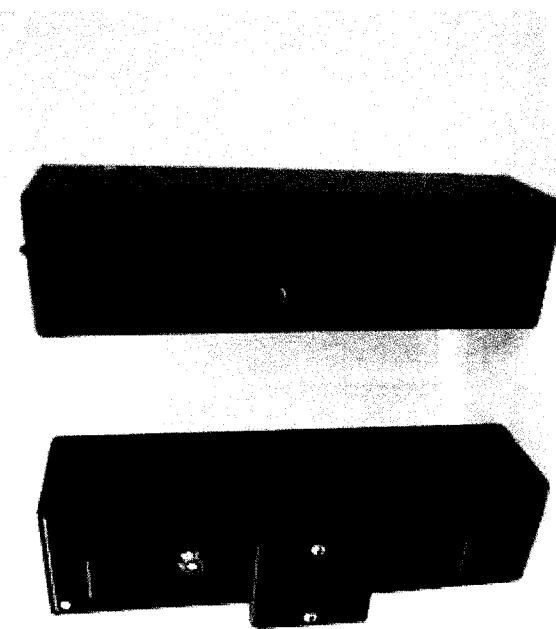
**Solar Unit – A4 in size, plug in for long term use.**

**Universal Brackets for all situations.**

**Light Unit – Plug in. For lighting up target area.**

**Manuals on units use and operation**

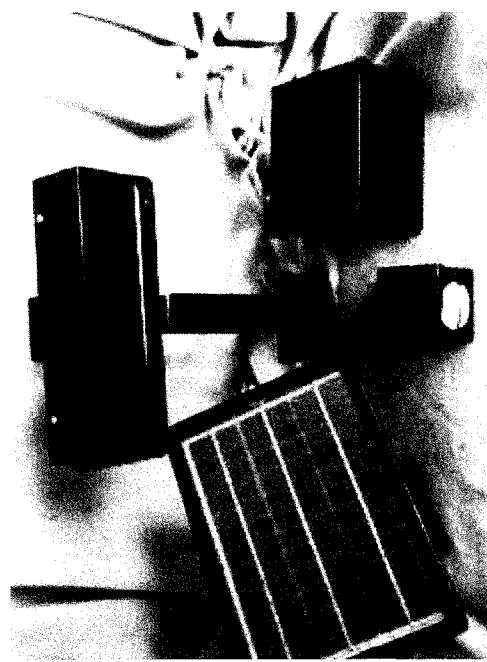
**Manual on how to best hide your units in real Situations.**



**Rugged case to move from site to site**

Measuring 10"x3"x3" your units can be easily hidden behind Fences, in poles, in bushes or discarded rubbish. Creative application is the key.

All that needs exposing is the sensor and cameras small opening. Very discreet!



All cased in a rigid carry case ready to go.

Set up in a couple of minutes. Simple click and your away.

Simple key on, key off when your ready to go.

Recharge in car in about 2 hours.