

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager
John Ortiz, Information Technology Administrator

DATE: October 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Security Access Control and Camera System (Consent)

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Award a contract with AMS.NET for a contract not to exceed \$301,400 to upgrade the security cameras and replace all current door and gate access control systems and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents.

BACKGROUND:

NID currently utilizes an unsupported legacy Johnson Control P2000 system for physical security access control for most of its building door and gate locks. While this system has served the District for over 15 years, it is outdated and lacks modern systems' flexibility, scalability, and security features. Considering evolving security needs and advancing technology, replacing the Johnson Controls legacy system with a next-generation, cloud-based access control platform by Verkada is essential to better safeguard NID's physical assets.

In addition to the new door and gate access control system, NID will upgrade and install modern Verkada-controlled security cameras to enhance coverage. These cameras will be fully integrated with the new physical security access control platform, allowing synchronized monitoring.

Staff initially considered upgrading its Johnson Control system, but after a thorough review, determined it lacked advanced security features and scalability. As the scope was expanded to include cameras, staff invited two vendors (Johnson Control Inc. and Verkada) to submit proposals. Both companies presented proposals that were competitive and similar in scope. However, after further evaluation, it was decided that the Johnson Controls system did not meet the District's long-term integration needs. As a result, staff opted for a solution that allows for camera integration, cloud-based technology, and for a system to address the District's evolving security requirements.

An upgrade to the Verkada Access Control system, installed and maintained by AMS.NET, will provide a comprehensive view of the security landscape and improve incident prevention and response capabilities. The contract with AMS.NET is for full Verkada system installation, support and maintenance for five years. Subsequent annual subscription will be incorporated into annual budgets.

The upgrade to Verkada will change the system backend while keeping the existing lock hardware and security badges assigned to staff in place. By replacing the legacy Jonson Control system with an up-to-date cloud-based platform and integrating security cameras at key locations, NID will significantly enhance its ability to protect its assets and staff.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

The 2024 Information Technology Department Budget includes a \$350,000 CIP project for Security upgrades. The contract amount of \$274,000, with a contingency of \$27,400, is within the 2024 annual CIP budget. Annual subscription expenses are comparable to our existing Johnson Controls system and will be incorporated in future annual District budgets.