



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, April 29th, 2015

Time: 10:30 AM

Location: The Cathedral of Saint Paul, 134 West Seventh Street, Erie.

ERIE DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP TO ANNOUNCE EXTERNAL SECURITY CAMERA FUNDING PROGRAM

Erie, Pa.—The Erie Downtown Partnership (EDP) will announce the beginning implementation of a three-year project to help reimburse the purchase and installation of exterior security cameras for eligible businesses and property owners in the downtown district at a press conference today at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, 134 West Seventh Street, Erie.

John Buchna, CEO of the EDP said, “This program is about improving quality of life downtown. There are existing cameras in place near a number of businesses from the docks to the tracks. Our program is designed to improve that coverage and expand it. Our review and approval process will occur in June so we can start the month-long installation procedure and get these systems in place during July. The reimbursement grant program will continue in 2016 and 2017. We hope others will match our funds to grow the project even further.”

Buchna and the Economic Restructuring Committee of EDP consulted with the mayor’s office and chief of police when designing the program. “Along with key partners like Gannon University, Erie Insurance Group, and UPMC Hamot, they taught us that exterior cameras can change behavior for the better,” Buchna noted. “Their knowledge and experience guided us throughout the process regarding education, quality of equipment, architectural issues, installation, site visits and vendor selection as we narrowed the field from 16 vendors to our preferred vendor, Cyber Systems USA of Erie.”

Eligible businesses will be part of the 70-block Erie Downtown Partnership district and must meet other criteria, as well. Businesses with existing security cameras may still be eligible for reimbursement provided that their systems meet minimum requirements. Applicants must be willing to share video camera footage with law enforcement if asked. Guidelines, applications, and specifications can be found on the EDP website at www.riedowntown.com and will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., Friday May 22nd.

The Erie Downtown Partnership is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the revitalization of downtown Erie by improving its image, business climate, physical environment, and design.

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