

SUMMARY

As a follow up to the Office of Inspector General's 2009 report titled "Installation of Crime Surveillance Cameras: 2003-2008," the OIG reviewed a contract awarded in September 2009 for preventive repair and maintenance of the crime surveillance camera system. The follow-up review found that the City did not implement recommendations made in the 2009 report relating to contract management and fiscal oversight of contracts. The repair and maintenance contract did not hold the contractor accountable for the quality of its work and the surveillance camera system continued to experience frequent performance failures through the term of the contract. On the day the OIG staff inspected the cameras, only 41 out of the 211 cameras currently installed were working.

In total, the contractor billed the City \$616,808.47 for repairs and maintenance from April 2009 to April 2010. This amount includes a \$189,565.75 bill for equipment for which the City paid but never received. The contractor also billed the City for approximately \$200,000.00 in work that had not been authorized by purchase order.

The follow-up review highlights deficiencies in the City's contracting systems that render the City vulnerable to waste, fraud, and abuse. Although the activities described in this review took place in the months before the current Mayor took office, the lessons to be learned from these missteps should be heeded by the new administration. The City must implement fundamental reforms in its procurement and contract management systems to ensure that future contracts deliver high quality at a reasonable cost.