



# City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Paxton and Assembly Members  
Keith Brady, Municipal Administrator

**From:** Don Kluting, Harrigan Centennial Hall Manager

**Date:** December 26, 2018

**Subject:** Security Camera System

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During the summer season Harrigan Centennial Hall (HCH) serves as a visitor center and is the main hub for visitor related businesses in downtown Sitka. Over 150,000 passengers transited through HCH last year and we anticipate over 200,000 in 2019. HCH staff respond to vendor conflicts every season. Resolving these conflicts is often difficult and ultimately affects the visitor satisfaction and Sitka's reputation. Security cameras are needed to monitor vendor traffic in the plaza area and ensure that conflicts are minimized and dealt with efficiently and effectively. Cameras will improve the safety and effectiveness of staff in enforcing the regulations.

As well, a security system will improve the safety for the public and staff during the many late night events that take place at HCH. The grounds around HCH has become a hangout at all hours of the day and night and often people are found sleeping on the benches around the perimeter of the building first thing in the morning. Panhandling and threatening behavior towards visitors has been reported. We have experienced an increase in vandalism over the past few years and HCH sustained significant damage due to being "tagged" in December 2017. A security system would have helped resolve that case. Police have also responded to intoxicated individuals, some of which were armed with knives that were being threatening to the public and staff. Ultimately, a security camera system will improve the safety of the area for all.

I respectfully request use of visitor enhancement funds to purchase and install security cameras at Harrigan Centennial Hall.