

## **Camden's "Eye in the Sky" Contract**

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued by New Jersey's Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury on behalf of New Jersey's Department of Law and Public Safety (L&PS) to solicit bid proposals for a wireless security camera public safety program to combat crime and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Camden, New Jersey (once named the most dangerous city in the country). The State believed that the Wireless digital video surveillance could provide the State of New Jersey and Camden Police Department (CPD) with a powerful proactive policing tool, first responders with access to realtime video in emergency situations, and State law enforcement with evidence for criminal proceedings.

The State of New Jersey planned to enable the installation of a proactive crime prevention camera system (Deployment Phase 1) focusing on 4 to 5 areas of the City, as determined by the CPD. The policy goals of this system implementation were:

- Proactive Crime Prevention Efforts - The security camera network will assist CPD in combating crime and will be designed to provide vital information in real-time where needed for proactive policing efforts such as virtual directed patrols, support for tactical response to incidents, and archival video to support crime solving and prosecution. End-user flexibility, functionality, and ease of use are vital.
- Business District Economic Development - Camera placement in the City's business districts will improve public safety and encourage the growth of business and retail activity by providing the City with additional public safety tools and the public with a visible reminder of police support.
- Homeland Security - Camden's location with relationship to Philadelphia and key industrial sites as well as major transportation infrastructure, mandates a continuing commitment to Homeland Security. The security camera network will complement on-going efforts and will provide the ability to allow interoperability with other locally based public and private security camera networks.

On January 24, 2011, the contract was awarded to CIBER, Inc. The system was rolled out in June of 2011. It has already helped police to make more than 100 arrests. Live feed from the cameras, which can be controlled by a few strokes on a keyboard, are monitored on a bank of screens inside the police building as well as in a mobile command center. Officers are also able to view the cameras on their in-car computers. Although Camden was forced to lay-off over a quarter of their officers in January of 2011 due to budget cuts, the new system permits police to monitor nearly twice as many city corners than they were able to before the lay-offs. See attached Courier Post article entitled "New Cameras Help Guard Camden." In addition to the media, this critical procurement was followed by both federal and state lawmakers.