

For Immediate Release

Monday, June 20, 2016

For more information, contact Kristi Stokes, GDC—727-8549

New Crime Fighting Tool to be Unveiled in Downtown Duluth

The Greater Downtown Council and Duluth Police Department will be unveiling a new program at a press conference on **Tuesday, June 21 at 10:30am** at the GDC Office (5 West First Street). This Virtual Safety Network will assist in the reduction and prevention of crimes in the downtown area through a public-private partnership.

Earlier this year, the Greater Downtown Council entered into a contract with Securonet LLC to implement a Virtual Safety Network in the downtown area. The program is made possible thanks to additional support from Minnesota Power, maurices, A&L, Enbridge, Oneida Realty and the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA). Securonet is a Minneapolis based company that integrates public and private security camera locations into a cloud based application that is easily accessible and user friendly. The Duluth Police Department will be using this as an investigative and emergency management tool.

The Securonet Virtual Safety Network's patent pending process allows property owners to geo-map the location of their buildings' public-facing security cameras to their specific position on a building. It also provides a fast and easy method (Incident Requests) for law enforcement to access data which can be used to quickly identify suspects and/or assist in investigations.

Ultimately, the Securonet Virtual Safety Network will save taxpayer funds. The system will enhance investigative efficiencies, thus reduce investigative expenses. It is hoped that eventually, this network can be expanded across the City of Duluth.

As part of the service, Securonet developed a marketing and communicative web page for the Greater Downtown Council and the Duluth Police Department for registering privately owned cameras. Full implementation of the VSN should lead to greater crime deterrence for the community.

The Greater Downtown Council and the Duluth Police Department asks downtown property owners to voluntarily register their cameras by signing up at: www.duluthmn.securonetservices.com. Again, the registration of cameras comes at no cost to community members and the Greater Downtown Council and the Duluth Police Department shall not have remote access to the cameras.

###

Kristi Stokes
President
Greater Downtown Council
5 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218-727-8549