



DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

ADMINISTRATION

CITY OF BATON ROUGE
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

P.O. BOX 1471
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 389-3171

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metropolitan Council Members

FROM: Rachael Y. Lambert, P.E., CFM; Development Director

RE: Authorizing the Mayor-President to execute a Professional Services Agreement with City Detect for an amount not to exceed \$549,000 for a contract period of October 1, 2026 through December 31, 2029; to provide data collection equipment and AI technology for the detection of blight

October 14, 2026

Metropolitan Council Meeting

HISTORY

The Department of Development has historically relied on residents for the identification and reporting of blight in the Parish. This approach creates an inherent disparity in certain areas where blight exists but is under reported. Nor is this approach an effective way to monitor, prioritize, or proactively address blight.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the Department of Development has been streamlining systems and moving towards more proactive solutions to blight in our community. Staffing challenges and insufficient data have been the two largest constraints on moving the Department toward a proactive and data-driven approach to blight.

METHODOLOGY

City Detect offers solutions to some of the Department's biggest challenges. The contract will provide for 5 data collection units (cameras) to be mounted on city-parish vehicles. As the vehicles move through the parish, the information collected by these cameras is automatically captured and analyzed by City Detect to identify and map blight, such as illegal dumping, litter, dilapidated structures, illegal signs, sidewalk issues, overgrown vegetation, and graffiti. The application can also be utilized for post storm debris identification.

With the implementation of this service, the Department will be able to identify a larger amount of blight, while also reducing the number of inspections and creating efficiencies within the Department.

The City Detect software does not automatically issue violations, and all identification and flagging of blight by the program must be manually reviewed by Department personnel to determine if a violation actually exists before a case is opened.

The data collected by the cameras is owned by the City-Parish, and is not shared or viewable by any other parties.



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RECOMMENDATION

The Department was introduced to this software through other communities facing similar issues with blight, and hearing of their success with City Detect. We believe that this service will be a key part of the Department's success in the fight against blight.

The Department of Development respectfully submits recommendation to the Metropolitan Council to approve the professional service agreement with City Detect.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Y. Lambert, P.E., CFM