

Security Cameras and Modern Safety: A Small Step for Big Peace of Mind

When it comes to protecting the people who work tirelessly to serve our village, I introduced a resolution to **direct the Village Manager and Police Chief to seek quotes for enhanced security protocols and infrastructure for our Village Offices.** This resolution wasn't about jumping straight into costly changes—it was about getting the facts and exploring solutions. Schools have cameras. Churches have cameras. Even convenience stores have cameras. So why wouldn't we at least look into modern safety measures for our hardworking staff and the public they serve?

The resolution acknowledged the need for tools like access controls, high-quality surveillance cameras, protective barriers, emergency communication systems, and employee training programs. These aren't luxuries; they're common-sense protections to address the unfortunate realities of today's world. Our Village Offices currently operate with minimal security measures that don't adequately meet modern needs. This gap is unacceptable for a public building where staff sometimes face volatile situations.

The board voted in favor of my resolution, which was encouraging. However, the Mayor raised objections—citing concerns that the building's landlord and the Police Chief had not been consulted in advance. While input from stakeholders is always valuable, the Mayor's push to strip the resolution of references to specific, commonsense safety measures like cameras and barriers defied logic. These are standard tools in workplaces everywhere. Instead of embracing this modest yet critical step forward, the Mayor's negativity, nitpicking, and obstruction distracted from the real issue: protecting the people who serve our community every day.

Let's be clear: it's about creating a secure environment where staff can focus on their jobs without fear of harassment or harm. It's about protecting the accessibility and openness of our Village Offices while ensuring that no one's safety is ever compromised.

When people feel safe, they thrive. That's as true for our village staff as it is for every resident and visitor. The relatively modest cost of modern safety measures is an investment in peace of mind. To those who balk at the idea of cameras, barriers, or training programs, I'd ask: what's the alternative? To hope for the best? To ignore risks until something happens?

I will continue advocating for enhanced security protocols because I believe our staff and our residents deserve nothing less. **Saranac Lake may be a small town, but our commitment to safety should be as big as our sense of community.**