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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mayor of Monessen Issues Directive on City Camera Usage**

MONESSEN – Mayor Matt Shorraw of Monessen issued a directive to executive staff and officials in the City of Monessen, regarding use of City cameras, at the “direction and recommendation of authorities.”

The directive states:

“Due to recent and past issues related to audio capabilities on City camera systems, please be advised by this formal directive, that moving forward, there is to be absolutely no audio recording of any kind on any and all City cameras. This directive includes city-owned buildings as well as any exterior cameras within the City under our purview, including those on public streets. “

It goes on to further state:

“Additionally, there is to be no third party access of any kind to any and all City-operated/owned/managed cameras.

Your cooperation in this matter is crucial to ensuring the privacy and safety of our residents and City employees, and the integrity of evidentiary material for law enforcement investigations.”

This comes after months of allegations of there being audio capabilities on the Monessen City Hall Cameras, as well as on cameras on telephone poles throughout the City.

In past council meetings, Mayor Matt Shorraw and Councilman Don Gregor have repeatedly asked questions regarding the audio capabilities of the City’s cameras, which were installed by Crystalline Technologies in Monessen, which is operated by Ron Mozer, who is looking to unseat Mayor Shorraw in the Democratic Primary this month.

Shorraw has expressed concerns regarding the audio on the cameras, and says he and employees, as well as some members of the public have experienced it firsthand. “Having audio on cameras, where an expectation of privacy exists, is not only an infringement of the privacy of employees and individuals; it could also

potentially implicate executive sessions, labor negotiations, and private conversations. In my view it is nefarious at best, and it is also illegal. We will continue investigating this matter.”

The City of Monessen has since stopped utilizing Crystalline’s system and is having a new system installed, which will not utilize audio and which will not have the capabilities of a third party regularly viewing camera footage.

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