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New wireless technology makes Detroit super safe for the big game and beyond

Will Detroit be safe for the Super Bowl? "Unequivocally, yes," answers Derrick Miller, chief information officer for the City of Detroit.

Miller backs his answer with the numerous upgrades to the city's downtown area, the growing optimism from the community and the implementation of new broadband technologies, originally developed for the military, that will enhance public safety, increase municipal worker efficiency and provide residents and visitors with Wi-Fi access in local hot spots, public transportation, or across the entire city.

According to Miller, the new Super Bowl technology implementation is an exercise in security launched by Mayor Kilpatrick and the administration that will assist the City in providing the highest level of public safety for Detroit's guests during the Super Bowl and residents beyond. This is also a culmination of the ongoing efforts by the administration to prepare for the Super Bowl, including a massive clean-up and refurbishing of the downtown area and the opening of numerous new businesses.

MOTOMESH, as it is called, is a public safety-only broadband technology (not the coffee shop type) that will increase situational awareness, and allow Detroit police officers to monitor a large area and population from their command posts, hand-held devices or laptops in real-time while remaining in their dispatched areas.

"This is an exploratory initiative for the city as we look for ways to use technology to do more with less, and to help compensate for lack of resources in certain areas," said Miller.

Specifically for the Super Bowl, Miller said the city will have cameras strategically set up in a perimeter in and around Ford Field, and each designated user would be able to remotely control cameras, grab the video, have it displayed on their device, and share it with others.

"We will also be able to run our current public safety data applications over an always on high-speed connection. Google mapping, Internet, e-mail with attachments are all possible with MOTOMESH. It's like bringing the desktop to our police cruisers," said Miller.

Miller is confident that the new wireless technology will be an asset to the city during the Super Bowl and beyond.

"This state-of-the-art technology will help enhance public safety and Homeland Security measures during the Super Bowl, and also gives the City of Detroit the ability to expand the network to bring on other municipal agencies. More importantly, we will be able to provide residents, businesses and tourists with wireless Internet access and enable the City of Detroit to more efficiently address the needs of all of our constituents."



Derrick Miller