

Homeowner Submission 002: Replace old Mailboxes & add cameras

My solution is pretty simple as listed below. I don't have cost for these, but they should be pretty affordable and I think they are worth trying. Since they are in the current locations there should not be any easement or ADA issues.

- Replace all the older cluster box units.
- Put cameras at all mailboxes.
- Include signage warning the thieves they are being filmed.
- Ask the post office to replace locks immediately if any are compromised.

FEEDBACK FROM THE BOARD AND SPECIAL MAILBOX COMMITTEE ON THE ABOVE.

Intro: Thank you for your interest in addressing this problem and providing a solution to be evaluated.

Feedback on Recommendations:

Currently there are dozen units in the west that need to be replaced. The USPS will only agree to assist Oakland Heights in the cost if we move forward with the mailbox pavilion solution. They will **not** assist if we simply replace the units in the current locations. If the HOA replaces the units in the current location, it will be about \$18,000 to \$20,000 depending on final configuration required. Also of note, if the HOA moved forward with the solution above and the theft continues, the USPS will require the HOA to rebuy the mailboxes originally committed and place only new ones in the pavilions. Their condition for the pavilions includes non-disruption of current service, which is in part why they have agreed to cover half of the cost. This will add over \$30,000 to the Pavilion project.

As for commercial cameras, this cost is about \$2,500 each to install. This does not include the cost of internet cell service needed to monitor them. There is no electrical access at the 9 locations and commercial providers will not install cameras off solar power due to the unreliability and excess of shade. To run power to each of these locations will vary between \$3,500 to \$5,500 each. Total cost for your proposed solution would be between \$55,000 to \$75,000 to install without including the ongoing cost to run cameras at 9 locations.

As a reminder, the HOA has no ability to obligate the USPS to change any locks. They make take months to replace them once compromised, if at all.

Chance Success: According to DAMC and SAPD, there is limited gain on just using cameras because the thieves can cover their faces as was captured during the surveillance program the HOA ran. Furthermore, SAPD reports they commonly cover license plates of replace them with fake ones. Cameras are effective when combined with a physical deterrent.