

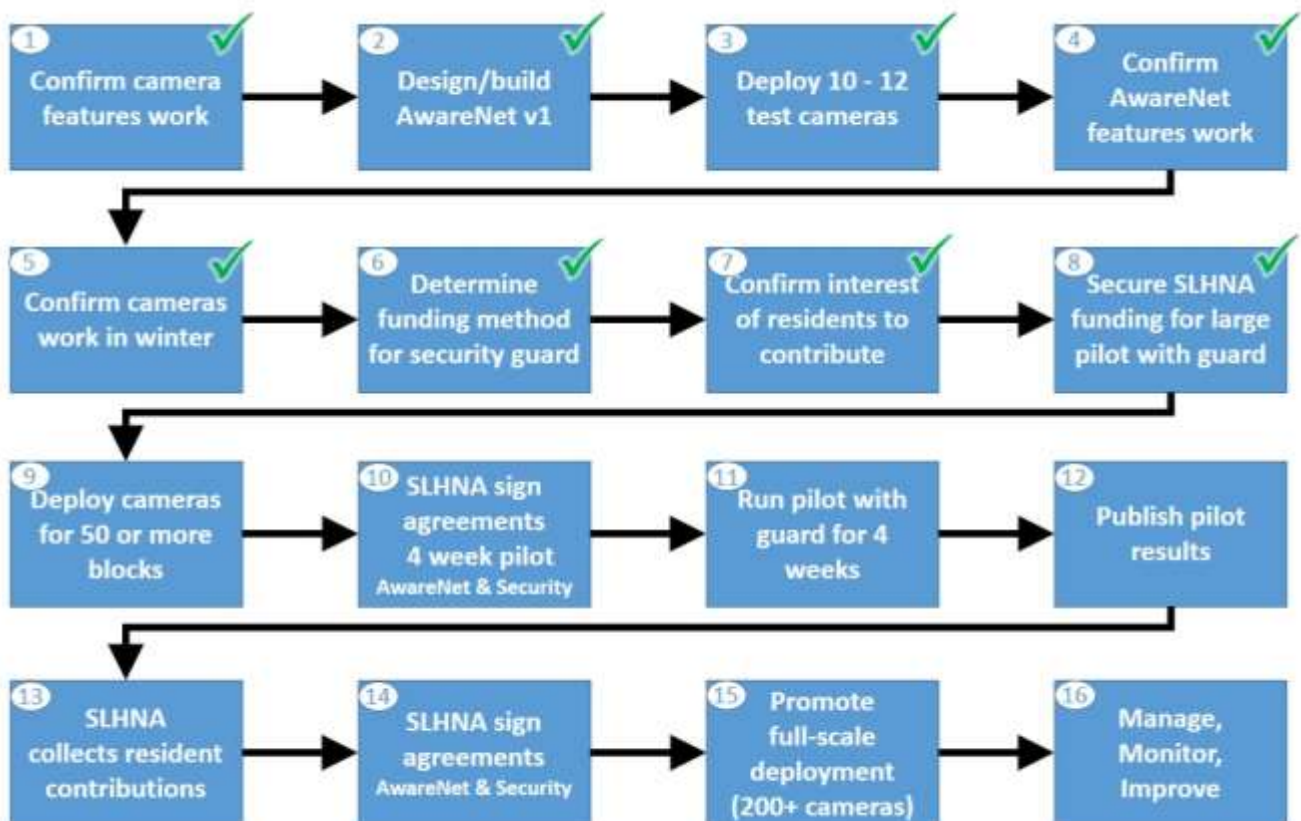
## PROJECT PURPOSE

The goal of the AwareNet project is to disrupt thieves each and every night when they start operating in our neighborhood and, by consistently doing so, deter them from returning as repeat offenders.

To accomplish the goal, we plan to deploy a network of cameras owned and operated by the residents of the neighborhood and hire a private security guard to respond, in real time, to alerts from the cameras.

Details about AwareNet are available at [www.awarenet.us](http://www.awarenet.us).

Below is a diagram of high-level steps for the project.





## **PROJECT HISTORY / BACKGROUND**

- **2018**
  - **Property crime was rising in St. Louis Hills and nearby neighborhoods.**
  - **The SLHNA Safety Committee tries to establish a neighborhood watch program.**
  - **It failed because it was too difficult to get volunteers to patrol the streets between 10pm and 5am and those that did volunteer were rarely in the right place at the right time to disrupt criminal activity.**
  - **We considered using cameras to augment the patrols but the necessary cameras were expensive and generally produced too many false alerts (e.g. cars, small animals, trees/bushes blown by the wind, etc.).**
- **2019 - 2020**
  - **Reports of property crime continue to increase. Thieves walking the streets and alleys looking for unlocked vehicles, unlocked garages, and anything they can steal.**
- **April 2021**
  - **Reolink introduces the Argus 3 Pro; the first residential, battery-powered, solar-charged, WiFi-connected camera to have artificial intelligence (AI) to differentiate motion that is a person, a vehicle or something else.**



- **May – June 2021**
  - **By testing two of the Reolink Argus 3 Pro cameras, I confirm they can reliably detect people walking the street and sidewalk at night-time, so long as the person is no further than 20-25 feet from the camera.**
  - **One of the cameras captures video of two thieves walking my street checking for unlocked vehicles.**
  - **Board Bill 61 introduced by Alderman Tom Oldenburg to make it explicitly unlawful for an individual to lift handles on vehicle doors.**
- **July 2021**
  - **Development begins for software to monitor automatic alerts from the Reolink security cameras and automatically send text message alerts to a designated smartphone.**
  - **The goal is to create a neighborhood watch program that allows safety volunteers to “patrol” the neighborhood without leaving their house.**
  - **The software is named AwareNet ([www.awarenet.us](http://www.awarenet.us)).**
  - **Met with Captain Marks (District 2, St Louis City Police). Although the police are not allowed to endorse any particular product, Captain Marks is very supportive of residential security cameras and has seen significant benefit from video provided by residents. She had a very positive reaction to the potential benefits of the project we described.**



- **August 2021**
  - Testing of AwareNet continues with additional and different model cameras.
  - The insurance underwriter for the neighborhood association says that using volunteers to monitor the AwareNet alerts is not acceptable.
  - We start reviewing options for using paid private security to monitor the AwareNet Alerts.
- **September 2021**
  - Testing of AwareNet continues.
  - The AwareNet project is first announced publicly on NextDoor (<https://nextdoor.com/p/gLdBQmFfGk7p>).
  - The AwareNet project is presented & discussed at the SLHNA general meeting 9/23/21 (<https://stlhills.com/event/general-meeting>).
- **October 2021**
  - Testing of AwareNet continues.
  - The AwareNet project is the subject of an article in the fall SLHNA newsletter (<https://stlhills.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SLHNA-October2021.pdf>)
  - Board Bill 61 is passed and becomes ordinance 71395 with effective date 10/21/21.
- **November 2021 – January 2022**
  - Testing of AwareNet continues.
  - Confirmed cameras and AwareNet continue to operate as expected during winter weather.



- **February 2022**
  - Survey on NextDoor indicates strong support among SLH residents for voluntary contributions to pay for a private security guard patrolling every night (details below).
  - SLHNA Board votes to support next steps for the project:
    1. Deploy AwareNet-compatible cameras to 50 blocks in SLH (bought, owned, and operated by residents).
    2. Run a 4 week test (pilot) of the project with a private security guard patrolling every night between 10pm and 6am (paid for by the SLHNA).
- **March/April 2022**
  - Engage SLH residents to buy and install cameras on a minimum of 50 blocks.

### NextDoor Survey Results

What is neighborhood safety and security worth? Last year, our neighborhood, like all neighborhoods in the city (and many in the county), was plagued with thieves roaming our streets and alleys every night looking for anything they could steal. The frequency has dropped during the winter, but when warmer weather returns it will likely be as bad or worse than last year.

A private security guard to patrol our neighborhood costs a minimum of \$35 per hour.

If having a security guard on duty every night from 10pm to 6am was proven to stop thieves before they start (deterrence), or minutes after they start (disruption), what voluntary contribution would your household be willing to make for a private security guard dedicated to the St Louis Hills neighborhood?

#### 150 Votes





# ST. LOUIS HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE



NEIGHBORS WORKING TOGETHER

<b>Neighborhood Stats</b>	
Single-Family Homes	2,500
Condo Units	200
Apartment Units	1,300
<b>Single-Family plus Condos</b>	<b>2,700</b>
<b>Security Guard</b>	
Hourly Rate	35
Hours per Day	8
Cost Per Day	280
Base Cost Per Year	102,200
Single Holiday Premium	140
Number of Holidays	11
Annual Holiday Premium	1,540
<b>Total Cost Per Year (Base + Premium)</b>	<b>103,740</b>
<b>PayPal Surcharge</b>	
2.9% of Amount	3,008
\$0.30 per transaction	9,720
<b>Maximum Total Surcharge</b>	<b>12,728</b>
<b>Total Funding Minimum Per Year</b>	<b>116,468</b>

Participation from apartments may be very low so leave them out of the calculations until we know otherwise.

Contribution Survey					Households (extrapolated)	% of Households That Actually Donate			
Monthly	Daily	Annual	Vote %	=> %		100%	75%	66%	50%
\$0	0¢	\$0	9%	100%	2,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$5	17¢	\$60	13%	91%	2,457	\$147,420	\$110,565	\$97,297	\$73,710
<b>\$10</b>	<b>33¢</b>	<b>\$120</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>\$252,720</b>	<b>\$189,540</b>	<b>\$166,795</b>	<b>\$126,360</b>
\$15	50¢	\$180	17%	55%	1,485	\$267,300	\$200,475	\$176,418	\$133,650
\$20	67¢	\$240	15%	38%	1,026	\$246,240	\$184,680	\$162,518	\$123,120
\$25	83¢	\$300	23%	23%	621	\$186,300	\$139,725	\$122,958	\$93,150

The \$10/month contribution level should provide the necessary funding even if only 50% of people that say they will donate actually donate.