

# Thomas M. Menino backs bid to block dumping in Hub

By Richard Weir | Tuesday, November 17, 2009 | <http://www.bostonherald.com> | Local Politics

Mayor **Thomas M. Menino** is getting behind a city councilor's proposal to rig the city with wireless cameras to snag suburbanites and contractors illegally dumping their trash on city streets.

"He's all for any measures to combat illegal dumping in the city. We shouldn't stand for it," Menino spokeswoman Dot Joyce said after visiting the mayor at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, where he is recovering from knee surgery. "If it can work, we should do it."

The Herald reported yesterday that Councilor Rob Consalvo today will present a plan calling for a pilot program to install up to 10 motion-activated spy cams - at a cost of about \$4,000 each - at chronic hot spots for illegal dumping and graffiti.

The cameras, which can record an image 250 feet away, even in darkness, can act as a deterrent by emitting flashing lights and warnings. According to Michael Mackan, the city's chief code enforcer, out-of-towners who toss their trash bags after crossing the border are among the biggest culprits of illegal dumping, along with contractors who discard construction debris.

The problem is worse in Hub neighborhoods such as Dorchester and Hyde Park, which are close to South Shore communities where trash disposal can mean a trip to the dump or shelling out money for stickers or an annual fee.

"Everybody knows that the mayor is a stickler for cleanliness," Joyce said of Menino, who Mackan recalled has twice phoned him on his way to work after spotting people emptying their cars of household garbage bags.

**Article URL:** <http://www.bostonherald.com/news/politics/view.bg?articleid=1212498>