

From: [Betty Stapleton](#)
To: [Opinion Committee](#)
Subject: Opinion for RQ-0473-KP
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I was asked to submit an opinion to the Opinion Committee regarding the need for facial recognition security cameras in the Denton schools for much needed enhanced security for the students attending class.

I think these cameras would deter would be criminals however I would like to make a few points. On the smartphone cellphones such as Samsung and Lively, you can unlock your phone with your facial recognition, but it is noted in the manual this does not always work because you may be wearing eyeglasses that get in the way of a true representation. The more widely used technology is cameras which view the retina and iris of the eye, and I do believe this is used in airports. There are no two eyes alike.

The Denton Schools should take bids from the security camera companies and only get state of the art cameras. I don't think the schools should skimp on the price of the system as if you are going to do it you want to do it right. Just anything for the kids. Also a thought, you don't want anyone spraying a lens with a spray paint can to cover it up which may be a criminal tactic before entering the school. Also you should get cameras which are not turned off by the downing of electricity; perhaps battery operated or electrical hooked up to a power generator. I really think when you look at systems you should think in terms of making it difficult for a criminal mind to disable the camera. In private homes, some people have installed hidden cameras and spy cams are popular. Where I live here in Clifton, at Lutheran Sunset Ministries, there are cameras at the mailboxes. I recall years ago working in the job force in Dallas, we worked under security cameras. So as you can see, this is not a new technology. And I don't think a criminal has any financial gain to make getting access into a school which would necessitate him going to great lengths, but usually it is an angry deranged younger person who is in a hurry.

I am all for the Denton schools as I am a graduate of UNT-Denton in 1972. The George family lived in Denton then, and their daughter Phyllis George had attended the Denton schools all her life, went to UNT, became Miss Texas, then eventually was named Miss America and married a governor in another state. She was a Zeta Tau Alpha greek as was Janice Baine around that time who became Miss Texas and I went to music class with her; she was a singer.

But don't get me wrong. EVERY CHILD IS IMPORTANT as well as their feeling of security of the learning situation because no one knows how the kids will turn out and we have to give them every chance in life. You want to know how Israel is dealing with it? Their schools are surrounded with barbed wire fences. They say it is working well for them.

I also would like to make a statement at this time that may be a little off the subject; I don't know what the police know, but UNT is a commuter school and it was a known fact when I was there that organized crime was driving in from Dallas.

I sincerely hope this reading was helpful to the Opinion Committee and to the Attorney General Ken Paxton.

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