



City of Racine Police Department
Policy and Procedure

Number: 226

Subject: Neighborhood Security Cameras		
Date Issued: 05-09-08	Effective Date: 11-11-11	Revision Number: 1

POLICY:

The Department employs an internal network of Neighborhood Security Cameras to enhance community safety. The Department will adhere to all applicable Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to the use of security cameras. Security cameras are a proven and accepted practice. Security cameras enhance public safety, prevent and deter crime and reduce the fear of crime. Security cameras aid in identifying criminal activity, suspects and evidence. Cameras will document police actions to safeguard citizen and police officer rights. Improve the deployment of resources and reduce the cost and impact of crime.

DEFINITIONS:

Security Camera – Any live video link that is electronically received into the Department and recorded in Omnicast.

Exigent circumstances – Situations that demand unusual or immediate action. Exigent circumstances shall include undercover investigations.

PROCEDURE:

1. Security cameras shall be used to observe locations that are in public view and where there is no expectation of privacy.
2. Security cameras shall not target/observe individuals solely because of their race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or other classifications protected by law. The security cameras can be used to monitor suspicious behavior, not individual characteristics.
3. Cameras may be deployed in those residential and commercial areas experiencing a distinct pattern of crimes being committed on public space where utilization could detect and/or eliminate such crimes.
4. The Chief of Police will determine the location for the security camera based on input from crime statistics, community groups, concerned citizens, law enforcement officers, etc.
5. Security camera footage is intended for the exclusive viewing by law enforcement officials. Specific security camera footage may be released by the Chief of Police or his designee to enhance public safety or pursuant to an open records request.
6. The Department shall not use audio in conjunction with the Security Cameras unless appropriate court orders are obtained.
7. All recorded security camera footage shall be maintained and secured by the Chief of Police or his designee.
8. Security camera footage shall be maintained and saved by the Chief of Police or his designee for 30 days. Specific camera footage may be identified and retained for a specified (longer) period of time in CMS.
9. The Department shall be responsible for the safekeeping, maintenance and servicing of Department equipment (i.e., cameras, cables, monitors, recorders, etc.)
10. The public is encouraged to submit comments to the Chief of Police at any time regarding a particular security camera deployment to enhance the effectiveness of the security camera program and to vie for this limited resource.

RELATED PROCEDURE:

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