

Public Safety Video Surveillance System

333.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for the placement and monitoring of agency public safety video surveillance, as well as the storage and release of the captured images.

This policy only applies to overt, marked public safety video surveillance systems operated by the Agency. It does not apply to mobile audio/video systems, covert audio/video systems or any other image-capturing devices used by the Agency.

333.2 POLICY

The Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office operates a public safety video surveillance system to complement its anti-crime strategy, to effectively allocate and deploy personnel, and to enhance public safety and security in public areas. Cameras may be placed in strategic locations throughout the County to detect and deter crime, to help safeguard against potential threats to the public, to help manage emergency response situations during natural and man-made disasters and to assist County officials in providing services to the community.

Video surveillance in public areas will be conducted in a legal and ethical manner while recognizing and protecting constitutional standards of privacy.

333.3 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Only agency-approved video surveillance equipment shall be utilized. Members authorized to monitor video surveillance equipment should only monitor public areas and public activities where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists. The Sheriff or the authorized designee shall approve all proposed locations for the use of video surveillance technology and should consult with and be guided by legal counsel as necessary in making such determinations.

333.3.1 PLACEMENT AND MONITORING

Camera placement will be guided by the underlying purpose or strategy associated with the overall video surveillance plan. As appropriate, the Sheriff or authorized designee should confer with other affected County divisions and designated community groups when evaluating camera placement. Environmental factors, including lighting, location of buildings, presence of vegetation or other obstructions, should also be evaluated when determining placement.

Recorded video may be used for a variety of purposes, including criminal investigations and monitoring of activity around high-value or high-threat areas. The public safety video surveillance system may be useful for the following purposes:

- (a) To prevent, deter and identify criminal activity.
- (b) To target identified areas of gang and narcotics complaints or activity.
- (c) To respond to critical incidents.
- (d) To assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders.

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- (e) To document deputy and offender conduct during interactions to safeguard the rights of the public and deputies.
- (f) To augment resources in a cost-effective manner.
- (g) To monitor pedestrian and vehicle traffic activity.

Video from each camera should be recorded in a manner consistent with the underlying purpose of the particular camera. Video should be transmitted to the Law Enforcement Analytics Division (LEAD). When activity warranting further investigation is reported or detected at any camera location, the available information should be provided to responding deputies in a timely manner. LEAD personnel are authorized to adjust the cameras to more effectively view a particular area for any legitimate public safety purpose.

The Sheriff or the authorized designee may authorize video feeds from the public safety video surveillance system to be forwarded to a specified location for monitoring by other than Sheriff's personnel, such as allied government agencies, road or traffic crews, or fire or emergency operations personnel.

Unauthorized recording, viewing, reproduction, dissemination or retention is prohibited.

333.3.2 INTEGRATION WITH OTHER TECHNOLOGY

The Agency may elect to integrate its public safety video surveillance system with other technology to enhance available information. Systems such as gunshot detection, incident mapping, crime analysis, and license plate recognition may be considered based upon availability and the nature of agency strategy.

The Agency should evaluate the availability and propriety of networking or otherwise collaborating with appropriate private sector entities and should evaluate whether the use of certain camera systems, such as pan-tilt-zoom systems and video enhancement or other analytical technology, requires additional safeguards.

333.4 AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR)

Automated license plate readers (ALPRs) combine high-speed cameras with image-processing technology to identify vehicles by their license plate. ALPRs are located as both in-squad cameras and Flock Safety® stationary cameras. Deputies that are available and in position to respond to an ALPRs alert shall confirm the suspect vehicle is still wanted prior to attempting to locate that vehicle. Deputies shall determine if emergency response to an ALPRs alert is appropriate and shall consider but not limited to:

- The type of alert (e.g. stolen license plate, moving vehicle vs homicide suspect, armed robbery suspect)
- ALPR location (e.g. in-squad, FLOCK, distance deputy needs to travel to locate vehicle)
- The time lapsed since ALPR alert (e.g in-squad moving suspect vehicle alert from 10 minutes ago where suspect location is now unknown)

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- Operational considerations (e.g. other priority calls pending, availability of backup)

See the Deputy Response to Calls Policy for further guidance on emergency response and supervisory responsibilities.

Supervisors may cancel a deputies response to an ALPRs alert and close the call without a response only in extenuating circumstances (e.g. multiple attempts to locate the vehicle have already been completed within a reasonable timeframe, operational considerations that won't allow for a response).

Once the wanted vehicle is verified and located, the deputy should attempt to make contact with the vehicle and its occupants. These contacts should be treated as high risk contacts (depending on the circumstances) and appropriate backup and tactics shall be utilized when deemed necessary (e.g. a verified stolen vehicle is occupied).

See the Mobile Digital Computer Use Policy for additional information.

333.5 VIDEO SUPERVISION

Supervisors should monitor video surveillance access and usage to ensure members are within agency policy and applicable laws. Supervisors should ensure such use and access is appropriately documented.

333.5.1 PROHIBITED ACTIVITY

Public safety video surveillance systems will not intentionally be used to invade the privacy of individuals or observe areas where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.

Public safety video surveillance equipment shall not be used in an unequal or discriminatory manner and shall not target individuals or groups based solely on actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, economic status, age, cultural group, or disability.

Video surveillance equipment shall not be used to harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group.

333.6 STORAGE AND RETENTION OF MEDIA

All downloaded media shall be stored in the designated cloud platform with access restricted to authorized persons. A recording needed as evidence shall be properly tagged and retained in accordance with the applicable records retention schedule. Refer to the [Portable Audio/Video Records Procedure](#) for additional guidance.

333.6.1 EVIDENTIARY INTEGRITY

Media shall be accessed, maintained, stored and retrieved in a manner that ensures its integrity as evidence, including strict adherence to chain of custody requirements. Electronic trails, including encryption, digital masking of innocent or uninvolved individuals to preserve anonymity, authenticity certificates and date and time stamping, shall be used as appropriate to preserve

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individual rights and to ensure the authenticity and maintenance of a secure evidentiary chain of custody.

333.7 RELEASE OF VIDEO

All recorded video gathered by the public safety video surveillance equipment are for the official use of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.

Recorded videos are classified as public records (Wis. Stat. § 19.32(2)). Requests for recorded video from the public or the media shall be processed in the same manner as requests for agency public records.

Requests for recorded images from other law enforcement agencies shall be referred to LEAD for release in accordance with a specific and legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Recorded video that is the subject of a court order or subpoena shall be processed in accordance with the established agency subpoena process.

333.8 TRAINING

All agency members authorized to operate or access public video surveillance systems shall receive appropriate training. Training should include guidance on the use of cameras, interaction with agency operations and a review regarding relevant policies and procedures, including this policy. Training should also address state and federal law related to the use of video surveillance equipment and privacy.