

Public Safety Video Security Systems

430.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidance for the placement, operation, and monitoring of the Department's public safety video security systems, as well as the storage, retention, and authorized dissemination of captured images and video. The Department's public safety video security program centralizes a large quantity of lawfully obtained video footage to aid personnel in making tactical and strategic decisions and is intended to:

- Deter criminal activity
- Enhance public safety and security in public areas
- Assist in criminal investigations and prosecutions
- Support emergency response efforts during natural or man-made disasters
- Optimize the allocation and deployment of personnel

This policy applies to all overt, marked public safety video security systems operated by the Department, as well as cameras owned and operated by other public agencies and private businesses or entities that have entered into a video sharing agreement with the Department. It does not apply to covert surveillance systems, body worn cameras, mobile audio and video systems, or other image capturing devices used by the Department.

430.2 POLICY

The Department operates and/or has access to public safety video security systems to support its mission of protecting life and property. Public safety video security system activities will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and will be conducted legally and ethically, while recognizing and protecting constitutional standards of privacy and civil liberties. The Department is committed to protecting individual constitutional rights, and the privacy protections and audit safeguards built into this policy mitigate the risk of improper or biased law enforcement.

Cameras will be deployed in public areas where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists. This policy supports proper use, placement, and oversight to achieve public safety objectives while minimizing unintended consequences. The Department may also access video feeds from public agencies and private entities that have entered into formal agreements to share public safety video security system data for public safety purposes. Such access is subject to the terms outlined in the applicable agreements and compliance with this policy. Department personnel shall only access video monitoring and recordings generated by public safety video security systems for official law enforcement purposes. Arbitrary or discriminatory tracking of individuals is expressly prohibited.

430.3 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

430.3.1 PLACEMENT AND MONITORING

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Approval: The placement of all cameras must be approved by the Sheriff or an authorized designee. County Counsel should be consulted as needed.

Environmental Considerations: Camera placement will consider lighting, obstructions (e.g. vegetation or buildings), and other environmental factors to support effective use.

Scope of Monitoring: Monitoring will be limited to public areas and activities where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists, such as streets, parks, and public facilities. Images should be transmitted to monitors installed in the department commander's office and the Real Time Operations Center. When activity requiring further investigation is reported or detected at any camera location, the relevant information should be promptly relayed to responding Department personnel. The Department Commander or trained personnel in the Real Time Operations Center are authorized to adjust the cameras as necessary to obtain a more effective view of a specific area for any legitimate public safety purpose.

The Sheriff or designee may authorize video feeds from the public safety video security system to be forwarded to designated locations for monitoring by individuals other than Department personnel, such as allied government agencies, road or traffic crews, or fire and emergency operations personnel.

Markings: Public areas monitored by the public safety video security system will include visible signage indicating the area is under active camera monitoring.

430.3.2 INTEGRATION WITH TECHNOLOGY

Integration with video analytics will require additional regulations and comply with state and federal laws, and approval from County Counsel and the Sheriff, the Sheriff's designee, or a member of Executive Command. Direct integration of the public safety video security system with facial recognition or biometric identification technology is prohibited by this policy.

430.3.3 VIDEO MONITORING

The public safety video security system may be live-monitored on a case-by-case basis to support public safety objectives, including critical incident responses.

Unauthorized monitoring, recording, or dissemination of video data is strictly prohibited.

430.4 PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS

Prohibited Activities:

- The public safety video security system 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
- The public safety video security system shall not be used to harass, intimidate, or discriminate against any individual or group

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- Members are prohibited from accessing or requesting live feeds from the public safety video security system during First Amendment activities for reasons outside of redeployment needs due to crowd sizes or other issues creating public safety hazards
- The public safety video security system will not monitor areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as residences, private offices, or restrooms

Minimization: Camera use will be limited to wide-area monitoring. Arbitrary or discriminatory tracking of individuals is prohibited unless directly related to a criminal investigation or public safety concern.

Audio Recording: The public safety video security system will not record audio to comply with applicable privacy laws.

430.5 DATA STORAGE AND RETENTION

Retention Period: Video recordings made from Department-owned and operated public safety video security systems will be held to the same standards outlined in the County records retention schedule. Recordings made by systems owned by partner agencies will be retained at the discretion of those partners pursuant to their own policies.

Storage: All video data will be stored on secure servers with restricted access to authorized personnel.

Evidence: Video data identified as evidence will be copied and stored in accordance with Policy 802 – Property and Evidence.

430.6 ACCESS AND AUTHORIZATION

Access Control: Access to recorded video is restricted to authorized personnel who are authenticated by username and password for legitimate public safety purposes. Access requests must be documented and approved by the Real Time Operations Center Captain. Access shall be removed when the technology is no longer necessary for personnel to fulfill their duties (e.g. when personnel are transferred to a command that does not use the technology).

Chain of Custody: A chain of custody will be maintained for all instances of video access or dissemination. Documentation shall include:

- When footage was requested, approved, or denied
- Date and time of access
- Video accessed
- Duration of access, if live monitoring
- Recipient
- Department personnel involved

The chain of custody will be documented in the report written by the member of the Department who requested the video.

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External Sharing:

- Video footage may be shared with external agencies that can demonstrate a need to know (e.g. other law enforcement or emergency services) only when approved by the Sheriff or a designee, except during emergency operations pursuant to Section 430.8
- Public release of footage will follow applicable public records laws and will exclude footage that compromises ongoing investigations or violates privacy laws. All public requests for video shall be made and processed through the Department's Records Division
- Video footage that is the subject of a subpoena or court order shall be processed through the Department's Records Division
- Video footage relevant to criminal prosecutions shall be turned over to the District Attorney, who will provide it to defendants in accordance with applicable discovery laws. Discovery requests shall be processed through the Department's Records Division

Personnel must confirm the identity and affiliation of individuals to whom footage is being released and/or who are requesting footage, and determine that the release of information is lawful prior to disclosure.

430.7 TRAINING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Training: All personnel authorized to operate or access the public safety video security system will receive training on proper use, applicable laws, and privacy considerations. All Department members authorized to operate or access the public safety video security system shall receive appropriate training from the Real Time Operations Center on the Fusus platform. Training should include guidance on system operation and review of relevant policies and procedures, including this policy. Training should also address state and federal laws related to the use of video security equipment.

Audits: The Real Time Operations Center Captain or designee will conduct audits of the public safety video security system annually to verify compliance with this policy, including a review of system access logs and camera usage through the Fusus platform. The Captain will finalize the audit to confirm compliance and forward it to the Division Commander for retention.

Violations: Misuse of the public safety video security system or violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination and potential criminal prosecution.

430.8 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

During active emergencies, relevant feeds from the public safety video security system may be shared with allied government agencies, emergency response teams, or other designated personnel to coordinate response efforts. Granting access to these feeds should be approved by the Sheriff or a designee.

Such access will be limited to the duration of the emergency and documented for audit purposes.

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430.9 POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Real Time Operations Center to ensure continued relevance, compliance with legal standards, and alignment with community expectations.