



VIDEO POLICING POLICY [DRAFT]

1) Purpose

The Pullman Police Department's Video Policing system is intended to contribute to public safety by employing a system that incorporates modern technology into the investigative process. This is available through active or passive monitoring of video cameras.

The goal of the system is to improve the Department's ability to prevent and detect public safety emergencies, deter criminal conduct, identify crime participants and serve as an aid to the successful prosecution of those responsible.

It is also important to balance the use of video surveillance with the public's privacy and the relationship between the government and the people. In our efforts to balance the use of video surveillance for crime prevention, detection and prosecution with the perceived or actual infringement on the public's privacy, the system shall be used for official law enforcement purposes only.

2) Policy

This policy and guidelines will specify rules of acceptable use of the Video Policing system in order to achieve program goals without compromising the public's right to privacy. This policy must also be flexible to adjust for unanticipated incidents, occurrences or applications for future improvements.

The system is not intended to serve as a mechanism for the casual observation of citizens in public places conducting lawful activities in a public setting or situation.

3) Camera Placement

- .01) When considering the purchase and placement of additional cameras to the system, consideration shall be given to meeting the goals of prevention, detection and prosecution, as well as minimizing the potential inadvertent capture of images from areas where there would be a reasonable expectation of privacy.

- .02) The department may consider the addition of cameras from non-City organizations to the system. This may include, but is not limited to, private businesses such as banks or other financial institutions. Approval to add outside video sources must be given by the Chief of Police.

4) Video Data as Evidence

- .01) Video data retained for evidentiary purposes shall only be reproduced for the purpose of investigation and prosecution efforts. The investigator and/or evidence technician shall account for all copies and be responsible for maintaining case records related to the video data.
- .02) Except as provided for other law enforcement agencies conducting criminal investigations, review of retained video recordings by non-Pullman Police Department employees must be approved by the Chief of Police. The review of the recordings must be done at the Pullman Police Department.
- .03) Video recordings retained as evidence may be subject to disclosure consistent with Chapter 10.97 Revised Code of Washington.

5) Racial Profiling/Nondiscrimination

No operator shall select any person in view of this camera system based solely on their race, ethnicity, or sex for observation. The system shall only be used for purposes directly related to public safety or authorized internal or criminal investigations. The system shall not be used to view individuals based on race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or other classifications protected by law. The Chief of Police may authorize the viewing of individuals on a random basis but only for the express purpose of system tests.

6) Policy Violations

Unauthorized access to the system, misuse of the system, unauthorized reproduction of images, unauthorized distribution of images, or any violation of the Video Policing Policy may be cause for disciplinary action.