



Police Department

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Pullman Police Department's Safety Camera Initiative (SCI) Project Public Forum on January 18, 2012 Questions and Answers

1. What does "active monitoring" of the camera footage mean?

We have no affirmative plans to actively monitor the live video feed continually. If a call is received in an area where there is camera coverage, then officers, dispatchers and police records staff can view the area in question to assist in incident assessment and response needs. Monitoring may also occur during peak activity times in camera coverage areas.

2. State Retention Schedule indicates that video from "crime prevention" activities have to be retained for one year, but the proposal indicates a couple weeks. What is the reason for the difference?

According to the City Attorney and State archive experts, video obtained in the manner we propose may be discarded once it is determined not be of evidentiary value. We expect to be able to make that determination within a couple of weeks after collection. We also believe this furthers the intent of not arbitrarily collecting and maintaining video of persons not directly involved in a crime.

3. How will analysis of the video be conducted by WSU researchers if the video is being destroyed?

WSU researchers won't be researching the actual video, but rather the impact the video has on public safety, crime, criminal investigations and criminal prosecutions. They will be comparing criminal cases and crime statistics prior to camera implementation with data after camera implementation, and documenting actual use of the video in all aspects of public safety, maintenance of public order, and the criminal justice system.

4. Question about policy section 3.02: Is this an "opt-in" option for businesses to join the PPD's camera network?

Yes, this is an "opt-in" provision. There are currently no plans to add non-police department cameras to the network. However, the possibility does exist for this to

occur in the future, such as for a bank to give the police department access to their cameras.

5. It was previously stated that Adams Mall is centrally located and easily identified as one possible location for cameras. Have any other locations been identified?

Initial analysis reveals the area around Adams Mall as the area in Pullman with the highest concentration of grant targeted incidents: public disturbances and serious assaults. Other potential locations include Colorado, California, and A & B Streets. Additional research will be conducted to further refine that analysis to determine specific locations for camera placement. Decisions about placement of cameras will be based on a mix of crime statistics analysis, interviews and input from local stakeholders, and technical specifications of the equipment used.

6. Question about targeting Adams Mall and the potential negative impact that could have on the businesses located there.

The success of the businesses at Adams Mall, and more specifically Stubblefield's, has led to a high concentration of student aged population that sometimes results in incidents that compromise public safety. Stubblefield's management has consistently worked closely with law enforcement to mitigate public safety concerns. We believe this project is no exception and will ultimately make the area safer and facilitate continued success of the businesses located there.

7. Could the cameras be moved to particular locations where incidents are known to have occurred in the past, like an alley fence that is constantly knocked down / vandalized?

It will be important to maintain all of the cameras in the same locations throughout the grant period so the impact of the cameras on disturbances and crime can be properly assessed at the locations initially identified as best for camera placement. Most of the cameras will be installed to be relatively stationary, although we hope that we will design at least one camera with the ability to be more portable in nature so that it can be moved if needed at the conclusion of the grant. Also, public disturbances and assaults are identified grant targets and will drive camera placement decisions during the grant period. Initial camera placement decisions will take into account the concerns and suggestions of local stakeholders as well as the historic patterns of targeted crimes and the technological specifications of the equipment.

8. What was identified in the grant proposal as problems / activities being addressed?

Activities to be addressed are generally violent crimes and neighborhood disorders. This means more specifically fighting, assaults, and incidents/activities that lead to those crimes. Initial analyses of historic calls for service and crime reports indicated

a strong concentration of this type of incident in the Adams Mall area. These assessments will be refined with input from local business owners/operators, residents and other stakeholders. The goal of the project is to make use of the camera technology to improve public order, public safety, and public satisfaction in the area.

9. How can we allay student concerns that an officer isn't just going to be watching for students who have had "one too many" or littering issues?

We are engaging the public in the policy development process to address privacy and any other concerns that the public has with use of the cameras including the types of concerns posed here. Through this transparent process we hope to develop a policy that the public is comfortable with. We don't have the staff, or the desire, to monitor the cameras to enforce minor offenses such as littering. Regarding students who have had "one too many", we will intervene if we believe there is a question of personal safety. Policy evaluation will continue after camera implementation, particularly during the first few months, and revisions will be made to address unanticipated concerns.

10. How is the department going to go about installing the cameras on private property?

A camera can only be placed on private property with the owner's consent. Every effort will be made to minimize the potential of the inadvertent capture of images from areas where there would be a reasonable expectation of privacy.

11. How many cameras?

This will depend on the bids we receive from vendors, but we anticipate approximately eight (8) cameras will be purchased and installed.

12. Question about policy section 4.03 – Do these fall subject to public records requests for all video footage?

All video footage in the possession of the police department is subject to public records disclosure under the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, and the Criminal Records Privacy Act, Chapter 10.97 RCW.

13. Policy doesn't specify a time limit for holding the video footage.

Video retention is governed by the Local Government Records Retention Schedule, Chapter 42.56 RCW.

14. Are we going to put signs in the area warning people that they are being recorded? On every camera pole?

In accordance with Washington State law, signs will be posted in camera coverage areas to notify the public that their activities in that area are being recorded. A camera pole may not provide the best exposure in a particular location, so sign placement will be determined on maximum exposure.

15. If private cameras join the network, would they fall under the same policies?

Private companies are free to establish the placement of cameras on their property as they choose. Accessibility to, and use of, camera footage is subject to agreement between a private company and the City. If the police department records video, or takes possession of recorded video, from a private business in conjunction with a criminal investigation, then the Government Records Retention Schedule, Chapter 42.56 RCW and the Criminal Records Privacy Act, Chapter 10.97 RCW, apply.

16. Do you think that the cameras will make that big of a difference since there is already such a large police officer presence on College Hill?

The grant research and analysis will help us determine if there is an impact; we believe there will be a positive impact. Although we make an effort to provide a law enforcement presence during peak times on College Hill, we just can't ensure that an officer will be in the right place at the right time consistently. We believe the cameras will capture incidents that will provide uncontroverted evidence to facilitate investigations and prosecutions, as well as deter disturbances and crimes.

17. What if Adams Mall doesn't stay a popular hangout, will the project be a waste of money or can the cameras be moved?

Although grant data will include activity from the past two years, there is long-standing data supporting high activity in the Adams Mall area. We have no information that leads us to believe this trend will change. However, should there be some event that impacts activity in the Adams Mall area, the WSU researchers will attempt to determine the separate impacts of the cameras versus the unanticipated event. If the cameras are shown by the project evaluation to have had a positive impact on crime and disorder in the area, they will likely remain in place for the duration of their useful life. If, on the other hand, the cameras are ultimately determined by the evaluation to have had no impact or a negative impact on crime and disorder in the area, the Pullman Police Department may consider removing them or moving them to other locations. The impact of the cameras, and decisions regarding their status, will not be determined until the end of the grant period at the earliest.

18. What happens at the end of the grant period? Will data analysis stop?

The funded analysis and research conducted by WSU will end when the grant period ends. However, we will be implementing data collection protocols to support grant analysis so that the Police Department will be able to collect and analyze camera related data after the grant period ends.

19. How do we fund the cameras after the grant period ends?

Maintaining camera operation after the grant period ends involves infrastructure and hardware maintenance and support. Most of these activities can be supported by the City's IT staff with the exception of camera repair or replacement. We anticipate that the cameras will become technologically outdated before they will physically require replacement.

20. What are the checks and balances for moving cameras into residential areas (post-grant period)? Will any camera movement necessitate City Council approval or public notification?

While there are no legal requirements regarding City Council approval or public notification (other than signs posted in areas being recorded), we anticipate engaging in both City Council approval and notification of impacted residents and businesses. Well established privacy rights under Washington law would govern exactly how and where cameras could be used in a residential area.

21. Can the cameras be utilized in a different manner from the grant specifications (such as monitoring roads, etc.) after the grant period?

While we may not be specifically focused on the targeted grant activities after the grant period, we will abide by our stated policy, which is: "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."

22. Pointed out potentially redundant language in section 5 of the policy draft (sentence one "no operator"; Third sentence "the system shall not").

We will revise the policy to remove redundant language.

23. Section 4.03: need to double-check RCW cited (possibly the exceptions clause, not the public rights clause).

This section will be clarified by adding a reference to the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW.