

County of Santa Clara
Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Sheriff
Annual Use Report
County Government Center Security Cameras

September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019

1. Description

The public-safety camera system at the County Government Center was used in compliance with the Board-approved Surveillance Use Policy. The administration of the security cameras was shared by the District Attorney's Office Bureau of Investigation and the Sheriff's Office, working in consultation with the County Executive's Office, individual departments, and the Facilities and Fleet Department.

During the period covered by this Annual Report, authorized staff from the District Attorney's Office and/or the Sheriff's Office reviewed security camera recordings, monitored security cameras in real-time (live footage), and downloaded still photographs. The camera system captured images to assist in the identification and prevention of threats; to assist in identifying, apprehending and prosecuting offenders; and to assist in gathering evidence for criminal actions. The camera system captured information regarding certain members of the public who were not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct.

2. Data Sharing

Investigators in the District Attorney's Office accessed and viewed recordings fewer than 15 times when necessary to monitor reported disturbances, for maintenance and training purposes, or in response to appropriate requests from the Sheriff's Office or an attorney from the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office or County Counsel's Office. The Sheriff's Office accessed the system on fewer than 15 occasions to view reported disturbances or crimes in progress. There were three occasions when District Attorney investigators downloaded recordings or still photographs, and the data was shared with only authorized personnel in the County Counsel's Office, San Jose Fire Department, District Attorney's Office, and defense counsel as required by criminal discovery obligations.

3. Community Complaints or Concerns

Neither the District Attorney's Office nor the Sheriff's Office received any complaints regarding the security cameras during the period covered by this Annual Report.

4. Audits/Policy Violations

During the period covered by this Annual Report, the District Attorney's Office conducted one internal audit of the County Government Center Security Cameras. There were no policy violations related to the system.

5. Effectiveness

In general, investigators in the District Attorney's Office accessed the County Government Center security cameras in response to complaints of criminal or unusual activity, suspicious persons, and disturbances in the parking lots and the District Attorney's Office's main lobby and elevators. In one case video footage captured an arson incident that resulted in a successful criminal prosecution.

6. Public Records Act Requests

The District Attorney's Office received no Public Records Act requests for footage from the County Government Center Security Cameras during the period covered by this Annual Report.

7. Costs Incurred from January 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019

The cost to maintain the security cameras during the compliance period amounted to \$52,418.68. The funds were paid to two vendors for software updates and security patches. The source was the General Fund. We estimate an annual expense of approximately \$10,000 to maintain the security cameras.