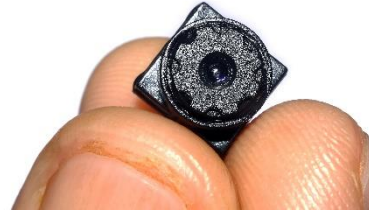


Camera Systems

Seattle Police Department (SPD)

What is the technology?

SPD's covert camera systems capture images and video of identifiable individuals, some of whom are unaware of the recording. Covert cameras can be concealed on a person or hidden in or on objects within a particular environment. These cameras capture images only, they do not record sound.



Why do we use the technology?

Covert camera systems are used by the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to obtain information during criminal investigations. These cameras are disguised and used to record specific events related to an investigation. The camera systems are utilized in two ways: when reasonable suspicion of criminal activity exists, cameras may be placed to capture plain view events in areas where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists.

The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/SurveillanceComment](https://seattle.gov/SurveillanceComment).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

Collection

When reasonable suspicion of criminal activity exists, cameras may be placed to capture plain view events in areas where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists. When placed in areas where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists, use of the camera systems is pursuant to the Washington Privacy Act, Chapt.9.73 RCW, and are utilized only after obtaining appropriate consent and/or legal search warrant authority.

Use

Covert cameras are managed and maintained by the Technical and Electronic Support Unit (TESU). When an Officer/Detective has obtained appropriate consent, a court order, or has established reasonable suspicion to utilize a covert camera in areas where no reasonable expectation of privacy exists, the Officer/Detective makes a verbal request to the TESU. TESU staff completes TESU's Request Form that requires a reason for the request, a case number associated with the investigation, and court order if necessary. Each request is screened by the TESU Supervisor.

Protections

All deployments of these devices are documented by TESU and subject to audit by the Office of Inspector General and the federal monitor at any time. All information must be gathered and recorded in a manner that is consistent with SPD Policy 6.060, such that it does not reasonably infringe upon "individual rights, liberties, and freedoms secured by the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Washington, including, among others, the freedom of speech, press, association and assembly; liberty of conscience; the exercise of religion; and the right to petition government for redress of grievances; or violate an individual's right to privacy."