

Memorandum

To: Richard Lyons, Chair, Public Safety & Health Committee
W. Callion, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare
Brent Larrabee, Chief of Police

From: David Martin, President



Date: 2/20/2009

Re: Policies & Procedures Manual – Public Surveillance Cameras

Enclosed please find a revised draft of the policies and procedures manual for use and approval of public surveillance cameras by the City of Stamford. This draft has been modified and streamlined from previous drafts in several notable ways.

- Redundant sections and phrases have been removed;
- Provisions beyond the intended scope of the CRC and properly the responsibility of the police department (for example, camera operator procedures) have been removed; and
- The number of pages has been reduced from 32 to 21.

The policy approach implanted in this manual promotes the use of unmonitored and/or publicly monitored cameras to achieve effective and efficient crime deterrence and post-crime investigation and prosecution. Not only are these the most effective uses of public surveillance cameras, there is also a very low potential for abuse or invasion of privacy with cameras operated in this manner. But the manual also enables the police to utilize active monitoring in the special circumstances that require it, and sets a corresponding higher standard of approval reflecting the greater potential for misuse.

The manual, as drafted, provides guidance to the Camera Review Committee, resulting in an efficient procedure by which the City of Stamford can move forward with the installation of appropriate public surveillance cameras. The draft allows the Police Department to exercise its authority, while also providing effective guidance and protecting the rights and privacy of the citizens of the City of Stamford with civilian input and oversight.

Attached is a summary of the most important elements in the manual.

Attachments

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