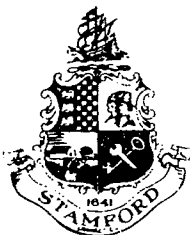


MAYOR
DANNEL P. MALLOY



**CITY OF STAMFORD
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD
P.O. BOX 10152
STAMFORD, CT 06904-2152
(203) 977-4081
FAX (203) 977-5560

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
AND CORPORATION COUNSEL
THOMAS M. CASSONE

DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL
SYBIL V. RICHARDS

ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL
JAMES V. MINOR
JOHN W. MULLIN, JR.
KENNETH B. POVODATOR
BURT ROSENBERG
MICHAEL S. TOMA

DATE: March 11, 2008
TO: David Martin, President, Board of Representatives
FROM: Michael S. Toma, Assistant Corporation Counsel *MST*
RE: Public Access to Images Recorded by Police Surveillance Cameras

You have asked whether the video images that are to be recorded by Police surveillance cameras (as well as any logs that may describe the recordings) are accessible by the public. The answer is yes, because the images (and the logs) fall within the definition of "public record" in the Freedom of Information Act. The FOI provides that:

"Public records or files" means any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public's business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency, or to which a public agency is entitled to receive a copy by law or contract under section 1-218, whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, printed, photostated, photographed or recorded by any other method.

Section 1-200(5). Because these video images and logs will be compiled for the purposes of law enforcement and crime prevention, they relate to the conduct of the public's business within the meaning of the above definition. Therefore, a member of the public may, upon request, inspect the video images or obtain a copy thereof, subject to limited exceptions.

Video recordings and logs would be exempt from the disclosure requirement if they would reveal: the identity of confidential informants; investigatory techniques not otherwise known to the public; information to be used in a prospective law enforcement action if prejudicial to such action; or, the identity of a sexual assault victim. Laws relating to criminal procedure may also protect certain records from public disclosure under certain circumstances.

Cc: William Callion
Brent Larrabee