



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

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10 Things You Should Know About Smart Streetlights

Fact #1: Streetlight footage has helped police solve more than 200 crimes, including murder, rape, kidnapping, carjacking, arson and fatal hit-and-run collisions.

Fact #2: No one outside the City has access to the streetlight footage. And it can never be sold. Ever.

Fact #3: Streetlight footage is permanently erased after five days, unless the police are actively investigating a crime.

Fact #4: Innocent people wrongly accused of crimes have been exonerated after police viewed streetlight footage.

Fact #5: Streetlight footage does not use facial recognition technology.

Fact #6: Instead of he said/she said, streetlight footage can help determine what really happened in serious traffic accidents. 26 fatal collisions and 17 hit-and-runs were investigated with the help of the footage.

Fact #7: Streetlight footage does not read license plates of passing motorists.

Fact #8: Streetlight footage takes dangerous criminals off the streets. A rape in downtown in 2018 was solved by reviewing streetlight footage to develop leads on the suspect. The rapist is now serving a 10-year sentence.

Fact #9: Streetlight footage can help solve crimes that occur in deserted neighborhoods, late at night, with no witnesses.

Fact #10: Streetlight footage is shared with police only after a specific request to help solve specific crimes.

