Surveillance Use Policy

Smart Streetlight
San Diego Police Department

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of Smart Streetlights is to facilitate the investigation of violent crimes, and traffic offenses that result in the loss of life, significant destruction of property, and erode the public safety of community members.

USE

The San Diego Police Department will use video evidence, along with data and information from authorized technologies embedded within Smart Streetlights, to conduct felony criminal investigations against persons and property, enhance responses to critical incidents and public threats, safeguard the lives of community members by using this technology to locate at-risk missing persons (including responding to Amber and Silver Alerts), and protect assets and resources of the City of San Diego.

Department procedures associated with the use of Smart Streetlights are DP 3.33 Smart Streetlight System, DP 1.51 Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR), and DP 3.02 Property and Evidence.

DATA COLLECTION

Smart Streetlight technology uses cameras to capture and store images from public spaces, where persons do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy. All videos gathered by the Smart Streetlights are for the official use of this department.

As Smart Streetlights are deployed, each camera will have privacy screens to mitigate private property recordings. The Smart Streetlights will be positioned to optimize collection of videos from public places to minimize collection of videos from places where an expectation of privacy exists or places exposed to view (e.g., parking lot of a shop or business).

Additional data points such as vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian counts, and the direction of their travel, as well as stationary vehicle detection, could be collected to optimize traffic control, pedestrian safety, and bicycle lane planning to further enhance public safety.

Data collected by embedded technology, like ALPR, will be discussed in detail on specific use policies and procedures for this surveillance technology, see DP 1.51.

DATA ACCESS

Personnel authorized to use Smart Streetlights equipment or access videos collected through the use of such equipment shall be specifically trained in such technology and authorized by the Chief of Police or designee. Such personnel shall be limited to designated captains, lieutenants, sergeants, officers, detectives, and police department personnel unless otherwise authorized.

Refer to DP 3.33, Smart Streetlight Systems, for additional details.

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DATA PROTECTION

The City's Department of Information Technology oversees the IT governance process and works with SDPD's Department of IT regarding project execution and risk assessment, selecting, and approving technology solutions. Cyber security and technology risks are also assessed by the Department of IT. For additional details related to IT governance processes, refer to the information at the following link:

- https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy23-fy27-it-strategic-plan-sd.pdf

Department Procedure 3.33 mandates videos collected by Smart Streetlights shall be stored in a secured law enforcement facility with multiple layers of physical security and security protection. Encryption, firewalls, authentication, and other reasonable security measures shall be utilized to protect digital evidence from Smart Streetlights.

All Smart Streetlights videos downloaded from a video management solution to a mobile workstation or to digital evidence storage like Axon evidence shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system capable of documenting all access of information by name, date and time. Only those employees of the San Diego Police Department working in an investigative or enforcement function, and authorized by the Chief of Police, shall access Smart Streetlights videos.

DATA RETENTION

All Smart Streetlights videos collected and stored on this technology platform shall be purged no later than 15 days from the date it was collected, unless the video was determined to be evidence, downloaded, and stored pursuant to DP 3.02.

PUBLIC ACCESS

DP 3.33 provides detailed information related to the release of video images from Smart Streetlights, including their availability to members of the public via the California Public Records Act process, and by criminal defendants utilizing the discovery process as detailed in California's Evidence Code.

THIRD PARTY DATA SHARING

Smart Streetlights videos may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies for legitimate law enforcement purposes, which includes enhancing criminal investigation and prosecution as allowed by law.

See DP 3.33 for additional details related to the use and release of evidence from Smart Streetlights.

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TRAINING

Training for the operation of Smart Streetlights technology utilized by the San Diego Police Department shall be provided by Police personnel or subject matter experts approved by the Department. All employees who utilize Smart Streetlights technology shall be provided a copy of this Surveillance Use Policy, along with instruction of the constitutional protections and case law requirements associated with its lawful use.

AUDITING THE OVERSIGHT

Personnel who are authorized to have access to the system shall be designated in writing and the designation shall ensure that their access to and use of the videos complies with the Surveillance Ordinance and applicable Department procedures referenced in this Surveillance Use Policy.

A log shall be maintained that records when access to Smart Streetlights videos are requested. This shall include the date, time, data record accessed, and staff member involved. The log shall be available for presentation for all required internal and external audits, and oversight will be maintained by the system Program Manager or his designee.

Any misuse of this technology shall result in disciplinary actions as outlined in DP 3.33.

MAINTENANCE

The San Diego Police Department shall maintain robust security procedures and practices, including operational, administrative, technical, and physical safeguards, to protect Smart Streetlights information from unauthorized access, destruction, use, modification, or disclosure.

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