



Protecting Fremont's Streets

The Fremont Police Department's highest priority is keeping the residents of our city safe. To meet this end, we have deployed several strategies to include specifically focused enforcement, increased two-way communication with the community, and encouraged and partnered with residents in the use of home and commercial video surveillance. Hopefully, these efforts are what have contributed to the decrease in Fremont's residential burglary rate by 27 percent from 2012 to 2013. While this is wonderful news, we believe we can do even more to keep our community safe through the use of video surveillance of public roadways in key areas. Our initial emphasis will be the entrance and exit points of the city. Some of these cameras will be License Plate Readers (LPR). These cameras are equipped with software that digitally reads the license plate. This will significantly decrease the time to search for suspect vehicles and can give us live updates on wanted and stolen vehicles.



We have also been looking into purchasing four to six cameras for use in particular areas of the city that become "hot spots" for criminal activity. These cameras will have the ability to be mobile and will be deployed in areas where there is increased criminal activity. These cameras will also have the ability to be used at large-scale events and festivals to help ensure community safety and make our policing efforts more effective. Over the last several years, video surveillance cameras have been a hot topic during Police Department-sponsored community meetings and events. Many residents and neighborhoods within Fremont have already partnered with the Police Department by installing privately-owned and operated cameras. Video surveillance in public areas has been a growing trend in the United States, accelerated further after the Boston Marathon bombing. Many local cities in the Bay Area, including Vallejo, Richmond, Tiburon, Ripon, San Francisco, Oakland, and Piedmont, have video and/or LPR systems, as it's proven to be an effective tool for promoting safety in these communities.



The intent of the cameras is to enhance public safety. Federal law allows video monitoring and recording to take place in public roadways and right of ways. Our cameras would only be focused on public roadways in accordance with Federal guidelines and not into private homes or businesses. There will also be no audio recordings. Video surveillance recordings would be retained for 30 days. Data from the LPR cameras would be stored for one year which is consistent with the standards of the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) and the Code of Federal Regulations. Both video and LPR data would be stored longer when a particular event is identified as related to a specific criminal investigation. Images captured by City-owned cameras will not be released to a private entity without a court order or review by the City Attorney's Office.

The Fremont Police Department is still in the beginning phase of this project. While we recognize there are varying perspectives on this issue, the City believes the additional use of cameras will enhance public safety in Fremont. However, at the same time, we are sensitive to people's issues of privacy. Community outreach is critical, and we look forward to hearing from community members in the months ahead. City Council approval is still needed prior to implementation. For updates on this project, be sure to check back regularly.

