

Surveillance Camera Registry

What is the program?

The Surveillance Camera Registry program is a new component of the Santa Maria Police Department's crime prevention strategy. The program proactively partners with residents and businesses to keep our City safe and solve crime.

How does it work?

The Santa Maria Police Department has developed a program which allows residents and business owners to voluntarily register the locations of their video surveillance systems. This new crime prevention and investigative tool allows law enforcement to more easily identify the locations of video surveillance systems and enlist the assistance of the community to help obtain video evidence.

What are the benefits of participating?

In continuing to promote the City of Santa Maria's vision of proactive, problem-solving partnerships with the community, the Santa Maria Police Department is offering this program as an additional tool to deter criminal activity in our neighborhoods. Many business owners and residents already operate private surveillance systems. As crimes occur in their respective areas, community members are not always aware that their surveillance systems may have captured information that could prove vital in a law enforcement investigation. Proactive communication and strong partnerships between the police department and all members of the community is a positive step towards a safer community.

Should I be concerned about my privacy?

No. The registry is kept confidential. The police department will not have access to footage but will be aware that a camera exists when investigating a crime in or around a particular neighborhood. If a crime occurs in the vicinity or in an adjoining neighborhood, the police may, if necessary, contact participants of the program and request a copy of their footage for evidence or investigative leads.

Will anyone be able to see the database that the police department keeps?

No. The list of registered properties is kept confidential. Only members of the police department have access to the list. If and when a crime occurs, officers and investigators can use an internal crime mapping tool to locate any registered cameras that may be of assistance.

What if I change my mind and want to opt out of the program?

The program is 100% voluntary. You can choose to opt out of the program at any time.

Will I be contacted more frequently if I register for the program?

Our hope is that you will not be contacted at all! However, you will be contacted if an incident occurs in your or an adjoining neighborhood and the police department believes your surveillance system may help in an investigation.

As changes or upgrades occur with the system, please keep us updated.

Who can I speak to if I have more questions?

If you have additional questions about Santa Maria's Surveillance Camera Registry program or any other crime prevention tool, please feel free to contact Sergeant Eligio Lara (805) 928-3781 Ext. 1271.