

1 [Providing for public notice of installation of community safety cameras.]

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3 **Ordinance amending the San Francisco Administrative Code by adding Chapter 19,**  
4 **Sections 19.1 through 19.8, to regulate the installation of community safety cameras,**  
5 **prescribe a notification and approval process for the installation of cameras, and**  
6 **establish protocols for oversight and access to video recordings.**

7 Note: Additions are *single-underline italics Times New Roman*;  
8 deletions are ~~*strikethrough italics Times New Roman*~~.  
9 Board amendment additions are double underlined.  
Board amendment deletions are ~~strikethrough normal~~.

10 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

11 Section 1. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
12 Section 19.1, to read as follows:

13 **SEC. 19.1. SHORT TITLE**

14 *This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Community Safety Camera Ordinance.*

15 Section 2. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
16 Section 19.2, to read as follows:

17 **SEC. 19.2. DEFINITIONS**

18 *(a) Community Safety Camera. For the purposes of this Chapter, the term "community safety*  
19 *camera" means any digital recording surveillance system installed at fixed locations in an open and*  
20 *obvious manner by the City and County of San Francisco to film public streets, sidewalks or common*  
21 *areas of public housing complexes. It does not include surveillance cameras designed to record the*  
22 *regular and ongoing operations of City departments, including but not limited to mobile in-car video*  
23 *systems, jail observation and monitoring systems, ~~traffic reporting cameras,~~ and building security*  
24 *taping systems. In addition, it does not include surveillance cameras installed for security purposes at*  
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1 the San Francisco International Airport, the San Francisco Unified School District or in San Francisco  
2 Municipal Railway facilities or vehicles.

3 Section 3. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
4 Section 19.3, to read as follows:

5 **SEC. 19.3. LIMITATIONS ON COMMUNITY SAFETY CAMERAS**

6 The City and County of San Francisco may install community safety cameras for the purpose of  
7 enhancing public security only in locations experiencing substantial crime and where the potential to  
8 deter criminal activity outweighs any concerns asserted by the affected community as determined by the  
9 Police Commission. The cameras shall record areas perceptible to the human eye from public streets  
10 and sidewalks only. Images obtained by the community safety cameras may be released to sworn  
11 members of the San Francisco Police Department holding the rank of Inspector or higher only. Police  
12 shall limit review of images to investigation of specific crimes.

13 Section 4. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
14 Section 19.4, to read as follows:

15 **SEC. 19.4. APPROVAL AND AUDITING OF ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY**  
16 **CAMERAS**

17 (a) Recommendation for Camera Installation by Director. If the Director of the Mayor's  
18 Office of Criminal Justice ("MOCJ") finds that a particular location is experiencing substantial crime  
19 and that the potential to deter criminal activity outweighs any concerns asserted by the affected  
20 community, the Director may recommend approval of a new community safety camera in that location  
21 to the Police Commission. The Police Commission shall calendar consideration of the matter no  
22 sooner than 30 days and no later than 60 days from MOCJ's notification.

23 (b) Public Hearing Required. The Police Commission shall conduct a public hearing to  
24 determine whether or not to install the camera. The MOCJ shall create and distribute to the Police  
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1 Commission and the public a report justifying the camera at the particular location 20 days prior to the  
2 first public hearing on the proposed installation. The report shall include, for each proposed new  
3 camera location: (1) the reason for installing the camera at the particular location, including crime  
4 statistics for the area and (2) the proposed area/range to be covered. The Police Commission may  
5 continue its consideration of the proposal for up to ~~60~~ 30 days in order to receive more information  
6 from the Director of the MOCJ, the Police Department, or community organizations or to further  
7 consider the proposal. The decision of the Police Commission shall be rendered within ~~90~~ 30 days  
8 from the date of the first hearing; ~~failure of the Commission to act within the prescribed time~~  
9 ~~shall be deemed disapproval of the proposed camera installation.~~

10 (c) **Approval of Camera Installation by Police Commission.** The Police Commission may  
11 approve the camera's installation after a hearing, provided that the Commission finds that the proposed  
12 location is experiencing substantial crime, the potential to deter criminal activity outweighs any  
13 concerns asserted by the affected community, and there exists significant support from the affected  
14 community for the camera.

15 (d) **Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors.** The Police Department shall prepare an  
16 annual report on all community safety cameras located in the City and County of San Francisco. The  
17 report shall identify the camera locations, the crime statistics for the vicinity surrounding each camera  
18 both before and after the camera is installed, the number of times the Police Department requested  
19 copies of the recorded images, the number of times the images were used to bring criminal charges, the  
20 types of charges brought, and the results of the charges. The Department shall issue the first report no  
21 later than one year following the date of the first camera installation approval by the Police  
22 Commission and not less often than once yearly thereafter.

23 Section 5. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
24 Section 19.5, to read as follows:  
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1                   **SEC. 19.5. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

2                   **(a) Public Notice Of Proposed Cameral Installation.** *At least 20 days before the Police*  
3 *Commission considers a recommendation to install a new community safety camera, the* ~~MOCJ~~  
4 **Department of Information and Telecommunications Services ("DTIS")** *shall post a minimum of*  
5 *4 signs, as set forth below, within a 100 foot radius of the location at which the camera is proposed.*  
6 *Signs shall remain posted through the date of approval or disapproval of the camera installation by the*  
7 *Police Commission.*

8                   **(1) Number of Signs.** *The Director of the* ~~MOCJ~~ *shall be responsible for determining the*  
9 *number of signs to be posted* may approve additional signs if deemed necessary to provide  
10 *adequate notice to the public.*

11                   **(2) Contents and Size of Signs.** *Each sign shall be at least thirty inches by thirty inches. The*  
12 *signs shall be entitled* **NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPROVE A COMMUNITY SAFETY CAMERA AT**  
13 **THIS LOCATION.** *The lettering of the title shall be at least 1¼-inch capital letters. All other letters*  
14 *shall be at least ¾-inch uppercase and ½-inch lowercase. Each sign shall include the time and date of*  
15 *the Police Commission's approval hearing, a Police Commission contact person, and a telephone*  
16 *number where members of the public may obtain additional information and/or submit comments.*

17                   **(3) Production of Signs.** *The Director of the MOCJ shall develop a standardized sign that*  
18 *meets the requirements of this Section.*

19                   **(b) Additional Notice Provisions.** *In addition to the signposting requirements in Section*  
20 *19.5(a), the Director of the MOCJ may use mailed notices. If the Director uses mailed notices, the*  
21 *Director shall send notices to:*

22                   **(1) the owner of each property within 300 feet of the proposed camera location as reflected on**  
23 **the latest Citywide Assessor roll,**

1           (2) neighborhood associations and organizations listed with the Planning Department as  
2           representing businesses, owners or occupants located within 300 feet of the proposed camera location,  
3           and

4           (3) to the extent practicable, the occupants of each property within 300 feet of the proposed  
5           camera location.

6           The mailed notice shall include, at a minimum, all of the information required in Section  
7           19.5(a)(ii). Mailed notice shall be sent at least 20 days prior to the Police Commission's consideration  
8           of approval to install a community safety camera.

9           (c) **Notice for Approved Cameras.** Upon approval by the Police Commission and installation  
10          of a new community safety camera, the Director of the ~~MOGJ~~ DTIS shall post a conspicuous sign  
11          within 25 feet of the location of the camera. The sign shall state that the area is under camera  
12          surveillance. Additionally, the Police Department shall publish on the Department's website the  
13          location of all cameras installed throughout the City. The Department shall update the site within 30  
14          days of each new camera installation.

15           Section 6. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
16           Section 19.6, to read as follows:

17           **SEC. 19.6. PROTOCOLS FOR OVERSIGHT AND ACCESS TO SURVEILLANCE**  
18           **INFORMATION.**

19           (a) Access to the recorders for community safety cameras shall be limited to personnel from the  
20           Department of Information and Telecommunications Services ("~~DTIS~~") DTIS for purposes of  
21           installation, repair, maintenance and upgrades, and to Custodian of Records staff from the Emergency  
22           Communications Department ("~~ECD~~"). ECD staff shall be responsible for proper release of the  
23           records.

1           (b) The camera recording devices shall be kept in secure areas with password protection for  
2 access.

3           (c) Members of the Police Department may obtain copies of the recordings by presenting a  
4 written request to ECD. The request shall be submitted by an Inspector of the SFPD, and approved by  
5 the Inspector's Supervisor and by a Captain or the Deputy Chief of Inspectors. In exigent  
6 circumstances only, ECD may release the information to an Inspector prior to receipt of a written  
7 request, but the Inspector must then provide a written justification for the release, including  
8 specification of the exigent circumstances. Within 7 days from the release under exigent  
9 circumstances, the SFPD Inspector must submit, in writing, the supervisor's and captain's approval of  
10 the Inspector's initial request.

11           (d) ECD may only release records to agencies other than the SFPD pursuant to a court order.  
12 ECD must notify the Board of Supervisors within 7 days of any release pursuant to a court order.

13           (e) Under no circumstances may recordings from community safety cameras be used for  
14 personal purposes.

15           (f) DTIS shall ensure that the community safety cameras retain data for a period not to exceed  
16 14 days.

17           Section 7. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
18 Section 19.7, to read as follows:

19           **SEC. 19.7. RIGHTS AFFECTED.**

20           The requirements of this Chapter are not intended to give any right to any person to challenge  
21 in any administrative or judicial proceeding any action if such person would not otherwise have the  
22 legal right to do so.

23           Section 8. The San Francisco Administrative Code is hereby amended by adding  
24 Section 19.8, to read as follows:

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**SEC. 19.8. SEVERABILITY.**

*If any part or provision of this Chapter, or the application of this Chapter to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this Chapter, including the application of such part or provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected by such holding and shall continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this Chapter are severable.*

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHERYL ADAMS  
Deputy City Attorney