

Parchment Community Library

SECURITY CAMERA POLICY

Security Cameras

Security cameras are used to enhance the safety and security of library users and staff by discouraging violations of the Library's Code of Conduct, to assist library staff in preventing the occurrence of any violations, and when necessary, to provide law enforcement assistance in prosecuting criminal activity.

SECURITY CAMERA PURPOSE AND PLACEMENT GUIDELINES

1. Video recording cameras will be used in public spaces of library locations to discourage criminal activity and violations of the Library's Code of Conduct. Audio will not be recorded.
2. Cameras may be installed in outdoor and indoor places where individuals lack a reasonable expectation of privacy. Examples include public common areas of the library such as parking lots, entrances, seating areas, service desks, and areas prone to theft or misconduct, or areas where money is stored or handled.
3. Cameras will not be installed in areas of the Library where individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restrooms.
4. Signs will be posted at all entrances informing the public and staff that security cameras are in use.
5. Because cameras will not be continuously monitored, the public and staff should take appropriate precautions for their safety and for the security of their personal property. The Parchment District Library is not responsible for loss of property or personal injury.
6. Recorded data is confidential and secured in a controlled area. Video recordings will typically be stored for no longer than 14 days. As new images are recorded, the oldest images will be automatically deleted.

USE/DISCLOSURE OF VIDEO RECORDS

1. Access to the archived footage by staff is restricted to the investigation of injury, criminal activity or violation of the Library's Code of Conduct.
2. Library staff have access to real-time images, viewable on desktop monitors placed in secure areas to ensure private access. The frequency of viewing and the amount of video viewed will be limited to the minimum needed to give assurance that the system is working or to ascertain if footage is available relative to a specific incident.
3. A 'Library Record' does not include recorded video surveillance images made solely for security purposes that do not include images of any activity or any other document or record that identifies a person as having requested or lawfully obtained specific services, materials, or information resources from the library. The Library Director, or his/her designee, shall be responsible for determining whether video surveillance footage contains any images that would require it to be considered a 'library record.' Once the Library Director, or his/her designee, has reviewed the video surveillance footage and determined that it is not a 'library record,' the Library Director may share the footage with law enforcement officials without a subpoena, court order, or other legal mandate.
4. Access is also allowed by law enforcement when pursuant to a subpoena, court order, or when otherwise required by law.

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5. Video images will not be maintained, provided no criminal activity or policy violation has occurred or is being investigated.
6. Video records and still photographs may be used by authorized individuals to identify those responsible for library policy violations, criminal activity on library property or actions considered disruptive to normal library operations as delineated in the Library Code of Conduct.
7. In situations involving banned patrons, stored still images may be shared with staff system-wide. Shared images may remain posted in restricted staff areas for the duration of the banning period.

UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS AND/OR DISCLOSURE

1. Confidentiality and privacy issues prohibit the general public from viewing security camera footage that contains personally identifying information about library users. If the Library receives a request from the general public to inspect security camera footage, they will be advised to file a police report.
2. Library staff who violate this policy will face disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Any library employee who becomes aware of any unauthorized disclosure of a video recording and/or a potential privacy breach has a responsibility to immediately inform the Director of the breach.

DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY

A copy of this policy may be shared with any patron or staff member upon request. The policy is also posted on the Parchment District Library's official website.

Questions from the public may be directed to the Library Director.

The Library disclaims any liability for use of the video data in accordance with the terms of this policy, given that the library is a public facility and that the security cameras are limited to those areas where patrons and/or staff have no reasonable expectation of privacy.

Adopted: April 24, 2018

Revised: April 27, 2021, September 26, 2023