



Office of the City Manager

August 16, 2018

To: Mayor and Councilmembers

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: New Police Department Voluntary Security Camera Registry

Following through on a City Council referral, the Berkeley Police Department, with the support of the Department of Information Technology, launched [a Security Camera Registry](#) today to allow community members to voluntarily register their home or business security cameras with BPD, in order to potentially support criminal investigations in our community.

If you would like to distribute the information to your email lists, we have put out a news release that explains how it works. Visit [cityofberkeley.info/police/news](http://cityofberkeley.info/police/news).

While private security video systems may deter crime, they also serve to capture valuable evidence which can be used to identify and apprehend suspects who have been recorded in the commission of their crime. Many residents and business owners currently operate security systems which could aid in criminal investigations, and we have had great success from community members who have supported investigations by providing us with footage from their security systems.

Camera registration allows officers to quickly identify cameras that could potentially aid in the apprehension of the suspect(s) responsible for the crime under investigation. This saves officers valuable time which they would otherwise spend going door-to-door attempting to locate security footage that could help identify a suspect.

Registration is completely voluntary and free of charge. Registration does not provide the Berkeley Police Department with direct access to anyone's camera; rather, it lets BPD know that an individual may be willing to share camera footage concerning a crime committed in their area. Personal information will be kept confidential by the Police Department and will only be accessed by law enforcement personnel who are conducting an investigation. Registration may be withdrawn at any time.

Camera registration is simple and only takes a few minutes to complete. Users are asked to provide basic information on where their camera(s) are located. Once a

Page 2

August 16, 2018

Re: New Police Department Voluntary Security Camera Registry

camera is registered, a member of the Berkeley Police Department will follow up with the community member to confirm registration.

The Berkeley Police Department is committed to fostering strong community-police relationships in order to prevent and reduce crime; the Department invites our community to register their security cameras as an element of a collaborative effort to safeguard Berkeley.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Interim Deputy City Manager  
Savita Chaudhary, Director of Information Technology  
Andrew Greenwood, Chief of Police  
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor  
Mark Numainville, City Clerk  
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager