

County of Santa Clara
Behavioral Health Services Department



23-1734

DATE: January 23, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Sherri Terao, Director, Behavioral Health Services Department

SUBJECT: Additional Video Security Cameras at Learning Partnership

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to the installation and activation of additional video security cameras at Learning Partnership. (Behavioral Health Services Department)

Possible action:

- a. Adopt finding that the benefits of the surveillance technology outweigh the costs pursuant to Section A40-4 of the Santa Clara County Ordinance Code.
- b. Approve the activation of additional video security cameras at Learning Partnership, located at 1075 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA, 95116.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The one-time costs to acquire and install the additional video security cameras is \$35,000 and already included in the Behavioral Health Services Department's (BHSD) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Board Adopted Budget. The upkeep and maintenance costs for the video security cameras is also included in BHSD's 2023-2024 Adopted Budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND

Approval of the recommended actions would allow for the installation of six additional outdoor video security cameras at Learning Partnership, a BHSD facility located at 1075 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA, 95116. Learning Partnership serves several functions including providing behavioral health outpatient services and serving as the BHSD's primary training facility. The Learning Partnership currently has five outdoor video security cameras. Six additional cameras are necessary to cover exits, more parking lot and walkway areas leading to entrances to assist staff in identifying, assessing, investigating, and reporting incidents to support the safety of employees, clients and visitors.

The County Privacy Office, in consultation with the Office of the County Counsel, has determined that the additional video security cameras at Learning Partnership are eligible for coverage under the Countywide Surveillance Use Policy for Video Security Cameras (“Policy”). Furthermore, it has been determined that an Anticipated Surveillance Impact Report (ASIR) is not required for the activation of these cameras because they align with the scope and use of the Board-approved Countywide Video Security Cameras Surveillance Use Policy (SUP). The SUP and Countywide Video Security Cameras ASIR are attached. The County of Santa Clara Health System Ethics, Privacy & Compliance Office will submit all the required information regarding Learning Partnership’s video security camera system for the Countywide Video Security Cameras Annual Surveillance Report.

Background

On December 14, 2021 (Item No. 18), the Board of Supervisors adopted the Countywide Surveillance Use Policy for Video Security Cameras. The Policy removes the need for departments to draft nearly identical Surveillance Use Policies and Anticipated Surveillance Impact Reports when requesting Board approval to acquire or implement new video security camera systems with standard capabilities. Instead, departments may request review and approval from the County Privacy Office, with consultation from the Office of the County Counsel, to determine whether the department’s video security cameras are eligible to be covered by the Policy. If it is determined the new video security cameras are covered by the Policy, the department is required to seek Board approval on the non-consent calendar to acquire and/or implement new video security cameras pursuant to Section A40-2 of the Surveillance Ordinance.

Benefits of Surveillance Technology Outweigh Costs and Concerns

Pursuant to Section A40-4 of the County of Santa Clara Ordinance Code, “...the Board shall assess whether the benefits to the impacted County department(s) and the community of the surveillance technology outweigh the costs including both the financial costs and reasonable concerns about the impact on and safeguards for privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights.”

Approval to implement and operationalize the additional video security cameras would enhance training services and the safety of staff and training attendees. The system currently in place at the Learning Partnership has one internal camera facing a side door for an employee entrance, one internal camera facing internal doors, two outdoor cameras facing external doors, and one outdoor camera facing an external patio area. Adding video security cameras would enable monitoring people and objects in the exterior parking lot, which is a high-traffic area. The additional security cameras would help to ensure that any risk in process is quickly identified, and intervention is provided to keep staff and training attendees safe. The additional cameras will also provide a way to document and track any unsafe or criminal incidents, should they occur on the property.

The potential impact of this system on civil rights and liberties are minimal considering the safeguards and restrictions that would be implemented by the County. The already approved policies contain reasonable and appropriate restrictions on the usage, sharing, and retention of system data. Furthermore, the system will only be used to monitor public or otherwise common area lobbies, doors, entrances, heavy traffic hallways, and exterior parking lots. The system shall not be used to record audio or private workspaces and shall not be placed in areas where confidential discussions occur, which mitigates privacy violations.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended actions will have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended actions will have a positive impact on seniors by providing additional security measures to increase their safety at this facility.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended actions will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Learning Partnership would lack outdoor video security cameras to support employee and public safety.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval, the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is requested to send e-mail notifications to Darren Tan (Darren.Tan@hhs.sccgov.org), Evonne Lai (Evonne.Lai@hhs.sccgov.org), Earl Ong (Earl.Ong@hhs.sccgov.org), Tom Balco (Tom.Balco@hhs.sccgov.org), Lisa Pfeifer (Lisa.Pfeifer@hhs.sccgov.org), and Doug Feliciano (Doug.Feliciano@ceo.sccgov.org).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Countywide Video Security Cameras Anticipated Surveillance Impact Report (PDF)
- Countywide Video Security Cameras Surveillance Use Policy (PDF)