

Santa Clara County Office of the Sheriff
FLASH CAMERA
Annual Surveillance Report: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

1. DESCRIPTION

FlashCAM manufactured by Q-Star Technology ("Flash Cameras") is a vandalism deterrent system, set up by patrol deputies or community services officers in locations where property crimes (e.g., vandalisms, burglaries, thefts) or other crimes are occurring or have been reported. FlashCAM is used primarily during the investigation of property crimes.

During this reporting period, the Sheriff's Office did not utilize the Flash Camera System.

2. DATA SHARING WITH OUTSIDE ENTITIES

During the time period of this report, no data was shared with outside entities as the system was not in use.

3. COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS

Any community complaints regarding the use of the Digital Voice Recorders are routed to Internal Affairs for tracking and response.

During the time period for this annual report, there were no community complaints or concerns expressed to the Office of the Sheriff regarding the Flash Camera System.

4. NON-PRIVILEGED INTERNAL AUDITS / POLICY VIOLATIONS

All Sheriff's Office staff are provided all Surveillance Use Policies via an internal web-based portal requiring review and a completed attestation of acknowledgement.

Use of the Flash Camera System is supervised by Sheriff's Supervisors to ensure the Surveillance Use Policy and other Sheriff's policies are being followed. During this reporting period, there was no use and no policy violations observed that occurred with the Flash Camera System by Sheriff's personnel.

There is no evidence to suggest that this technology was used disproportionately affecting lower-income community members or community members of color.

5. EFFECTIVENESS IN ACHIEVING ITS IDENTIFIED PURPOSE

This equipment has been repurposed to the West Valley Patrol Division and is antiquated. It was not used during this reporting period. Its effectiveness for the Sheriff's Office has not been assessed yet in practical application due to the age and compatibility of the equipment for modern investigatory law enforcement work. As a result of this technology no longer meeting its initial purpose and objective, the Sheriff's Office is in the process of decommissioning this equipment.

6. PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

The Sheriff's Office has a process in place to track Public Records Act requests, with designated staff to receive and respond to each request. The Sheriff's Office has not received any Public Records Act requests regarding this equipment.

7. ANNUAL COSTS

There were no annual costs associated with the Flash Camera System.