

Helpful Tips

- Know how to download your camera footage.
- When mounting cameras, please be aware of places where people may have a reasonable expectation of privacy (examples: their backyard or interior of their home).
- Focus and mount your video on key points of entry or concern.
- Exterior Mounting Location Options: Front door, rear door, side gate, driveway/front parking lot, second-floor wide view, and street view.
- Keep batteries charged in your cameras.
- Consider lighting around your cameras.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the program work?

This program lets residents and business owners voluntarily register their camera surveillance locations with the Sonora Police Department. When SPD responds to criminal incidents in the community, SPD personnel assigned to an investigation will access the database to identify locations where potential video evidence may exist. SPD personnel then ask the registrant to check video surveillance for a specific date and time.

What are the benefits of registering my camera?

This program establishes an efficient and modernized process for quickly identifying available video surveillance within the community, providing you with a powerful tool to assist with police investigations.

It provides a helpful method to assist with police investigations, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility to make our neighborhoods safer.

Will the SPD have remote or live access to my video cameras?

No. SPD personnel will contact you to obtain the video only when needed.

Who will contact me to obtain my camera footage?

You may be contacted by a police officer, police detective, community service officer, or police dispatcher. All SPD personnel have Department-issued identification cards and email addresses ending with the domain name "sonorapd.com."

How will I provide my camera footage to the SPD?

You may be sent an email to upload the video via a link, or one of our personnel may respond to your home with a storage drive to assist in the retrieval if needed.

Is my camera registration information open to the public?

No. All your information is kept confidential with the case investigation and may only be viewed by members of the SPD, ensuring your privacy and security.

If we feel your video may be valuable for suspect identification, we will seek your authorization to include it in a public safety announcement.

How can I update a change of address, phone number, or email?

If you need to update your personal contact information, such as a change of address, phone number, or email, you can do so by emailing SonoraPD@sonorapd.com or by calling (209) 532-8141. Keeping your information up to date is crucial for effective communication and accurate data in our system.

The Sonora Police Department should be contacted anytime a registered camera owner has a change of address, when email or phone numbers change, or when cameras are added or removed.

Will the registration cost me any money?

No. Registration of your cameras is completely free of charge, making it accessible to all community members.

What are my responsibilities as a community partner in this program?

Participants agree that their cameras will only be mounted on private property. They cannot be affixed to telephone poles, street poles, or other City fixtures. Cameras can be positioned to capture anything the public can see with their eyes. They cannot be intentionally directed into private areas such as residential windows.

Participants agree not to represent that they are acting as an agent and/or employee of the City of Sonora or the Sonora Police Department through the program.