



Legislation Text

File #: 13-0428, **Version:** 1

An Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Ann Arbor by Adding a New Chapter, which New Chapter shall be designated as Chapter 25, Video Privacy, of Title I of said Code
As video surveillance technology becomes more sophisticated and prevalent there is a need to establish a regulatory framework that balances privacy protections and law enforcement needs.

This proposed ordinance would regulate the City's use of video cameras that monitor human activity without an operator present. It does not regulate cameras that monitor city buildings and storage areas, cameras used for entertainment events or traffic design studies, or private use of video surveillance cameras.

Key provisions within the proposed ordinance include:

- **Short-term installations:** Public surveillance cameras that will be in place for fifteen days or less may be installed at the discretion of the city administrator to address a specific criminal problem.
- **Long-term installation:** Public surveillance cameras that will be in place for more than fifteen days in residential areas may be installed if two-thirds of nearby residents give written permission. They may be used for up to six months with an option for renewal. If there are no residents within 300 feet, the camera may be installed for up to a year with an option for renewal.
- **Requirement of notice:** The ordinance would provide notice requirements for short-term and long-term installations of surveillance cameras, including on-site notice.
- **Residential protection:** If a private residence is in the public surveillance camera's visual range, the residents of that property must give written permission before the camera is installed.
- **Video storage and use regulations:** All public surveillance cameras are subject to use and storage regulations. Public surveillance cameras may not be used for live-monitoring, except in well-defined emergencies. Audio recording is not permitted. Access to surveillance recordings is limited to employees of the police department and attorneys involved in criminal proceedings. After 90 days, surveillance recordings are deleted unless they are part of an ongoing investigation. When a public surveillance camera is removed, a report on its effectiveness is published on a public website.

(See attached ordinance)

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Warpehoski and Anglin