

Amendment 2 to CB 120518 – FLIR SIR Material Change

Councilmember Nelson

Recordings – SIR Executive Overview Description

Effect: Clarifies that, while SPD does not record or store data or images directly from the video downlink, SPD does request FLIR video from King County and store it consistent with SPD’s policies for photographic evidence.

In Attachment 2 to CB 120518, amend subsection 1.0 as follows:

1.0 Technology Description

The King County Sheriff’s Air Support Unit is the only full-time rotary-wing law enforcement aviation unit in Washington State. Three separate helicopters, one Bell 206B3 helicopter, one UH-1H “Huey,” and one Bell 407, operate as Guardian One and Guardian Two. The capabilities of these aircraft include: forward looking infrared cameras (FLIR), 30-million candlepower “Night Sun” searchlights, Pro Net and LoJack radio tracking receivers, still and video cameras, and communications equipment for communicating with local, state, and federal law and firefighting agencies on their frequencies.

The Maple Leaf Helicopter Downlink facility houses the receiver, decoder, and IP encoder equipment necessary to allow SPD personnel to view live streamed video from the KCSO helicopters. The Downlink facility does not give SPD the capacity to record the live streamed video. ~~(There are no saved recordings)~~. KCSO helicopters do record audio and video of their operations, and SPD may request as evidence copies of those recordings, which SPD stores pursuant to using existing video evidence storage policies, including [SPD Policy 7.090 – Photographic Evidence](#).

The aerial vantage point created by the use of helicopters helps trained law enforcement personnel provide enhanced vision to locate and track the movement of crime suspects and disaster victims. The forward looking infrared (FLIR) camera technology housed within the Guardian One and Guardian Two helicopters provides a further enhanced picture of incident scenes by layering heat signatures of individuals and objects on top of the aerial video. The FLIR technology allows for subjects to be detected even when obscured by clouds, haze, or darkness.

Aerial video and infrared technology are tools that may be perceived as invasive to an individual’s privacy, as they may be recorded without their knowledge or consent. SPD policy mitigates against the potential for inappropriate use. [SPD Policy 6.060 – Collection of](#)

Lise Kaye
EDTCL Committee
3/8/2023
D1

[Information for Law Enforcement Purposes](#) defines the way information will be gathered and recorded in a manner that does not unreasonably infringe upon: individual rights, liberties, and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the State of Washington, including freedom of speech, press, association, and assembly; liberty of conscience; the exercise of religion.