

**Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)  
Office of Grants & Research  
Homeland Security Division**

**Security Camera Guidance**

**May 2011**

Security cameras play an important role in Massachusetts Homeland Security Regions' and the Boston Urban Area Security Initiative's homeland security programs. Security cameras provide real-time monitoring at critical infrastructure and security sensitive sites, permit traffic monitoring during emergencies, and protect designated critical facilities throughout the commonwealth including mass transit, water resources, and shopping malls. Security cameras deployed to date with the use of federal homeland security grant funds have all been installed in connection with comprehensive homeland security plans and with the knowledge and permission of site owners.

However, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) recognizes that security cameras placed in areas to which the public expects open access, such as streets or intersections, may raise privacy concerns among local residents. In response to these concerns, EOPSS has developed the following guidance with regard to the placement of homeland security grant-funded security cameras.

**I Applicability**

This guidance applies only to homeland security grant-funded security cameras that are permanently affixed and installed in or directed at fully open and public areas. For the purpose of this guidance, a "fully open and public area" is defined as a place to which the public traditionally enjoys free and unfettered access, such as a public roadway, public park, state or city owned nature trail, or public plaza. This guidance does not apply to designated critical infrastructure or security sensitive sites nor to the perimeters of such sites.

**II Requirements**

Homeland security grant funds administered by EOPSS shall not be used to place security cameras in a fully open and public area unless written permission is obtained from the town administrator, city manager, chairman of the board of selectmen, mayor, or equivalent administrative head of the municipality, or their designee, in which the security camera or cameras are to be located. Such permission is not required to place security cameras in or directed at state or municipal buildings or the sidewalks and roadways directly adjacent to them.

Exclusions from this guidance are based on the premise that the public can reasonably expect surveillance in public or private venues that have inherent security sensitivity such as city and town halls, court buildings, schools, houses of worship, or critical infrastructure related to water resources, energy, communications, and the like.

Please direct any questions regarding this guidance to your EOPSS Program Coordinator.