

Who's Watching You? Surveillance Technology in Greenfield, MA

How to find Information about surveillance

When doing an online search, try using multiple search terms (i.e., surveillance, security camera, video camera, CCTV [closed circuit television]).

Under state law, you can submit a public records request through the Greenfield Police Department (<http://greenfieldpd.org/public-records.html>) for information about police activities, including video surveillance. You can also call locations around town and ask about their video surveillance technology and policies.

Video surveillance in Greenfield

- In 2015, Greenfield Public Schools added video camera surveillance to all their locations. These cameras are infrared and web-enabled for police access.¹
- As of May, 2018, the Greenfield Police Department does not use body cameras. They have, as of May, 2018, budgeted money to add video cameras to their 10 marked police cruisers and upgrade video cameras inside the police station.²
- Video camera surveillance is planned for the new Olive Street parking garage.³
- There may be municipally-owned surveillance cameras in the Energy Park and other outdoor public spaces. A 2016 Town of Greenfield press release includes the lines, "...the Mayor has ordered the charging stations be secured and has asked the GPD for videos of the area around the charging stations. The Mayor will be looking into possibly increasing video surveillance at the Energy Park as well."⁴
- Greenfield Community College does not have video surveillance cameras installed anywhere on campus.

Police procurement of military equipment

State and local law enforcement agencies can acquire surplus military equipment for free from the Federal Government through the Law Enforcement Support Office of the US Defense Logistics Agency. This includes things like boots and paper shredders, as well as guns, helicopters, armored personnel carriers, and unmanned vehicles. You can search their public records to see what, if any, equipment your municipality has acquired:

<http://www.dla.mil/DispositionServices/Offers/Reutilization/LawEnforcement/PublicInformation.aspx>

As of March 31, 2018, Greenfield had not acquired any equipment from the LESO, but several other municipalities in Franklin and Hampshire County have acquired such equipment.

¹ <http://www.gpsk12.org/gps-central/administration/ch-3-news-video-safety-security-upgrades-gps-schools>

² <http://www.recorder.com/Greenfield-police-looking-to-add-cruiser-cameras-17526570>

³ <https://greenfield-ma.gov/p/330/Olive-Street-Parking-Garage>

⁴ <https://greenfield-ma.gov/n/97/Vandalism-in-Greenfield>