



TOWN OF NEWBURGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

300 Gardnertown Road, Newburgh, New York 12550

DONALD B. CAMPBELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

(845) 564-1100

HELP KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

Partner with your Responding Police Officers

By:

- Confidentially sharing whether you have a ring/doorbell camera or exterior cameras at your residence or business and knowing that no one will ever have access to your camera recordings without your permission, including anyone from the police department.
- Knowing that the Patrol Officers and Detectives responding to a crime committed in your neighborhood will then know exactly who to contact to be able to identify a subject, subjects, and/or a vehicle, thus saving valuable time and expense and preventing the possible get-away of criminals.
- Filling out the attached short form and either giving it to a Police Officer or mail it or drop it off to a Dispatcher at the Police Department at 300 Gardnertown Road, Newburgh, where we will keep a secure list for Police Use Only in response to a crime committed.

How:

- Simply tell a Police Officer that you see or may know, that you have cameras for protection at your residence and would like to be a part of helping them to help us all.

We at the Police Department thank you for your support in helping us keep criminals out of the Town of Newburgh. Be assured that there is no technology which allows the police, or anyone else to access and view another's home recordings without their permission. And neither is it ethical or lawful.

So with your help, the message to criminals is: "not in my neighborhood; not in my town".

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact our Dispatchers or any Patrol Officer at telephone number 845-564-1100. You may also e-mail your return if you choose to info@townofnewburghpd.org.



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Type of Camera: ___doorbell/ring ___external ___internal

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

First or Last Name (or both): _____

Email (optional): _____

Approver Initials: _____

Business Name _____



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March, 2023

In the spirit of community policing and in an effort to increase crime solvability in our neighborhoods and business corridors, it appears prudent and more efficient to work together to establish our own citizen registry of ring-doorbell/external cameras for use by Patrol and Detectives for the purpose of investigating crimes committed in our area of responsibility. With the use of Public Service Announcements (PSA's), Facebook posts, the National Night Out Against Crime, and handouts by Patrol Officers (see attached example of handouts and a PSA and Facebook post), and with the assistance of Town of Newburgh Police Department Dispatchers, we can formulate a valued list which would be immediately available to Officers and Detectives responding to a crime, or series of crimes, committed in a neighborhood or at a business.

You must be assured that there is no technology which allows the police, or anyone else, to access and view another's home or business recordings without their permission. And if it was possible, not only is it unethical, but it is also unlawful.

Upon receipt of a volunteer's permission, Town of Newburgh Police Department (TNPd) Dispatchers would enter each submission onto a spreadsheet with immediate retrieval being made available to Detectives and responding Patrol Officers subsequent to a crime. The ring-doorbell and external recordings of the volunteer subscribers to the registry can then text or email their video only after being directly contacted by a police responder or a police dispatcher pursuant to a crime reported or a suspicious activity. And as stated above, the Police Department would not be able to view a person's camera recording unless given permission by the owner to do so and again, only as it relates to an official police investigation.

Upon research conducted by this writer, it is reported that ring-doorbell cameras reduce crime by up to 55% according to a 2015 Los Angeles Police Department crime study whereupon, over a period of six months, their burglaries were reduced by said percentage. The same burglary reduction was also reported by Redlands Deputy Police Chief Travis Martinez (California) and by Estate Agent Networking, one of England's largest Daily Property News Channels.

A Massachusetts Institute of Technology review in 2018 showed that over a period of 10 months, burglary rates were reduced by 42%. Also, in 2018, Newark, New Jersey reported 50% fewer burglaries over a four month period following ring-doorbell installations and reviews. Various other police departments nationwide report car theft crimes, assaults, kidnappings, and even two missing child cases (in Marietta, Georgia) - all were solved utilizing data from ring-doorbell cameras.

A canvas of our own TNPD Detectives determined that probably one-half of our arrests for vehicle larcenies, burglary, assault, armed robbery, petit larceny, domestic violence, and even a triple homicide were solved or greatly aided with the use of ring-doorbell and/or external cameras, but the investigations took longer because investigators had to go door-to-door asking if citizens in close proximity to the crime had camera footage available for review. Over the last six months, they estimate that at least 150 arrests were the product of this strategy for interdicting criminal activity. Days of investigation by canvassing Detectives in a recent six figure burglary loss in the Town of Newburgh would have been saved by knowing which businesses and residents had such cameras.

The thinking here is that arrests utilizing this database technique will initially increase as the database gets larger over time, and then decrease as criminals realize that the capture rate is enhanced and they move their criminality elsewhere or are incarcerated. This success will make Town of Newburgh Police Officers and Detectives more available to community requests for service and will afford them more time to address other serious offenses committed.

Of note, as well is the fact that the time expended by the TNPD doing "neighborhoods" searching for locations with cameras will be significantly reduced as the locations of cameras in the vicinity of a crime committed can be quickly transmitted by Dispatchers to investigating Officers and Detectives. The result is time more efficiently spent which is less costly to the Town and to the Department. Reduction as well of perpetrator get-away time is, of course, another obvious positive by-product of the project.

An examination of Officer/Detective interactions with the public via an analysis of blotter entries over the last six months resulted in a total of 5,105 contacts which average approximately 850 per month. With this many interactions and with the encouragement of each Officer and Detective, the database of camera locations should increase quickly and cover a sizable portion of our crime areas and overall area of responsibility over the first year.

Town of Newburgh Police Chief D. Bruce Campbell has approved this initiative and encourages each Officer, Detective, Dispatcher, and Citizen to take an active part in establishing this worthy database technique so as to keep our neighborhoods and businesses safe from criminal intrusion.