

ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



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VIRTUAL PATROL

EFFECTIVE DATE:

MAY 25, 2022

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:

BY THE ORDER OF:

Chief Giacomo Sacca

BY AUTHORITY OF:

Police Director Earl J. Graves

SUPERSEDES ORDER #:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this general order is to establish the procedures for the administration of a virtual patrol program.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Elizabeth Police Department to harness available technology to further the agency's mission. The Department has adopted cloud-based technologies to extract and unify live video, data, and sensor feeds from cameras to enhance situational awareness and investigative capabilities. This technology will be utilized to implement a virtual patrol program to check for criminal activity, develop situational awareness, and enhance the investigative capabilities of the Department.

PROCEDURE:

I. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Authorized User**- any sworn member of the Elizabeth Police Department or civilian closed-circuit television (CCTV) operator who is fully trained in this policy and the FususONE camera system and is working under the authorization, supervision, and review of the Communications Supervisor.
- B. **FususCORE**- a pre-configured appliance that allows camera feeds to be displayed in the FususONE web or FususONE mobile app. The FususCORE device brings live video feeds from any participating fixed or mobile camera system into FususONE. Live video

feeds can be continuous, or 'on-alert' only.

- C. **FususONE**- a web-based application that can provide access to private and public video streams, live feeds, officer geolocations, floor plans, ALPRs, and other data in a single unified feed that can interface with the CAD system.
- D. **FususOPS**- an app that enables officers in the field to access the FususONE platform.
- E. **FususVAULT**- a secured collection of recorded incident video and data, including public tips.
- F. **Virtual Patrol**- the process of utilizing existing surveillance systems to remotely view areas of interest to periodically check for criminal activity, develop situational awareness, and enhance the investigative capabilities of the Department.

II. OBJECTIVES

- A. The objectives of the Virtual Patrol program are to:
 - 1. Protect buildings and property.
 - a. Areas to be monitored include building perimeters, entrances and exit lobbies, hallways, receiving docks, storage areas, cash handling locations, restricted access entrances, and vehicle entrances and exits.
 - b. Operators may not view areas where the general population has an expectation of privacy, such as areas not normally accessible for viewing by a member of the public.
 - 2. Verify an active alarm.
 - 3. Monitor and record locations where intrusion alarms, security alarms, and exit door controls are installed.
 - 4. Monitor traffic and public streets.
 - 5. Provide video monitoring of public areas and events.
 - 6. Monitor designated "hot spots" and "directed patrol" areas located within the city.

III. ACCESS AND USE

- A. Virtual patrols are to be conducted by authorized personnel using the FususONE web application or the FususOPS mobile application.
 - 1. Authorized personnel must log on using their individual username and password.
 - 2. Only authorized personnel may review video or images.

3. Copies of surveillance video or images must be authorized by the Communications Commander.
 - a. Recorded video or images to be used as evidence will be retained as specified in *G.O. Vol. 5 Ch. 6 Evidence and Property Control*.
4. The release of video recordings or camera images may only occur with the approval of the Chief of Police or his designee:
 - a. For legitimate investigative, safety, or security reasons.
 - b. To share with other law enforcement agencies to serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
 - c. When requested by a prosecuting agency.
 - d. To the media to assist in the identification of victim(s), suspect(s) or witnesses in a criminal incident.
 - e. To appropriate legal representatives in response to a valid subpoena.
 - f. In compliance with Open Public Records Act guidelines.
5. Video monitoring will be conducted professionally, ethically, and legally. Personnel conducting virtual patrols will be trained and under the direct supervision of the Communications Supervisor.
6. Monitoring of video equipment will be in controlled access areas and is not to be viewed by unauthorized persons. Any unauthorized use of this technology will be subject to discipline.
7. All Fusus data activity will be recorded and stored electronically in the FususVault.

IV. VIRTUAL DIRECTED PATROLS

- A. Prior to the start of their shift, the CCTV Operator will:
 1. Log on to the Fusus platform.
 2. Log on to the RMS System (Lawsoft).
 3. Log on to Geolitica.
 4. Ensure that all systems and all cameras are functioning properly. All malfunctioning equipment will be documented on a Private Report and submitted to the Communications Supervisor.

- B. Operators will check the Directed Patrol tab of Lawsoft for directed patrol locations. If a camera is in the vicinity of a directed patrol location, operators will conduct a virtual patrol and:
 - 1. Create a Lawsoft entry for each directed patrol completed.
 - 2. Make an entry in the Directed Patrol complaint form detailing the date, time, and any actions taken, or activity observed.
- C. Operators will check Geolitica (formerly PredPol) predictive policing software at the start of their shift. Complaint area boxes in the predictive policing software will have a virtual patrol performed and a Lawsoft entry created. Geolitica complaint areas boxes will be checked once per hour.

V. VIRTUAL PATROL

- A. When not conducting directed patrols, operators will conduct virtual patrols of each post for the purpose of detecting quality of life complaint issues such as double-parked vehicles, motor vehicle accidents, motor vehicle violations, drinking in public, etc., and conduct advance scouting for calls for service under the direction of the Communications Supervisor.
- B. Virtual Patrols should be conducted with the camera settings on multi view to provide the operator with greater coverage area. Areas of concern detected can be then viewed in single camera mode.
- C. During a Virtual Patrol, instances of criminal activity may be encountered. Upon the discovery of potential criminal activity, the operator will notify the Communications Supervisor of their observations. The Communications Supervisor will make a determination as to the appropriate response and direct patrol units as needed. The Communications Supervisor will ensure that the appropriate information is entered into the RMS/CAD system concerning the incident.