

Cambridge Housing Agency Security Camera Policy

Purpose:

This policy establishes guidelines for the installation, use, and management of security cameras at all Cambridge Housing Agency (CHA) properties, including CHA-installed cameras and resident-installed cameras such as video doorbells and interior cameras.

CHA-Installed Cameras

- Cameras may be placed in exterior and common areas including entrances, exits, parking lots, sidewalks, exterior walkways, and community/common rooms.
- Cameras will NOT be placed inside tenant units, bathrooms, staff-only areas, or any area where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists.
- Footage is used to enhance site security, deter criminal activity, and assist in investigations of property damage, illegal activity, and policy violations.

Access to Footage

- Footage may be accessed only by the Executive Director or authorized staff.
- Footage may be shared with law enforcement upon request or with a subpoena/court order.
- Footage is confidential and not released to tenants unless required by law.

Footage Retention

- Footage is retained for approximately 30–45 days depending on system capacity.

Resident-Installed Cameras

Permitted Resident Cameras

Residents may install:

- Video doorbells
- Indoor cameras

Prohibited Resident Camera Activities

Residents may NOT:

- Install cameras pointing toward another tenant's door, windows, patio, or leased premises.
- Aim cameras at hallways, sidewalks, parking lots, common areas, or shared spaces.
- Install cameras on CHA property outside their assigned unit.
- Record audio of others without consent where prohibited by law.
- Install hidden or concealed cameras.

Approval Requirements

- Cameras attached to CHA property (e.g., doorbell cameras) require written notification to CHA.
- Installation must not damage property.
- Resident must remove the device and repair any damage upon move-out.

Enforcement

Violations may result in:

- Written warnings
- Required removal of camera devices
- Lease violations or termination for repeated or severe issues