

## **Bolton Hill Community Association Camera Network Policy**

### *What it is*

The Bolton Hill Camera Network (BHCN) is an initiative organized and operated under the authority of the Bolton Hill Community Association (BHCA) to enhance safety and security in Bolton Hill. The BHCN allows residents as well as neighborhood apartment buildings, businesses, and institutions to voluntarily share footage from their private security cameras facing outdoor spaces to help prevent, solve, and potentially prosecute crime that has occurred in Bolton Hill.

The BHCN is intended to support the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to identify individuals involved in one or more crimes, including violent crime (homicide, shooting, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault) or property crime (burglary, larceny, auto theft, or arson). It does not share camera footage of suspicious activity with BPD unless it can be tied to a crime reported to BPD and a BPD report number. Suspicious activity is defined as individuals who peer into cars, vestibules, or over fences; who carry bolt cutters or other equipment that could be used to illegally enter a car, fence, or building; are trying to open or test whether a door to a car, fence, or building is locked; or who were present in an area immediately before or after a crime occurred. The BHCN is a substitute for sharing camera footage of alleged crime or suspicious activity on social media platforms.

The BHCN is not a tool for continuously surveilling all neighborhood activity nor for profiling individuals based on their outward appearance, including, but not necessarily limited to, skin color, hair style, or outfit. It is restricted to video footage facing outdoor spaces; footage within private residences is not allowed. Any audio captured by footage shared on the BHCN shall not contain discernible conversations.

### *Who can participate*

Anyone may submit still or video camera footage capturing an incident of crime or suspicious activity believed to be a threat to safety and security through an electronic means determined by the BHCA safety and security committee. Participants in the BHCN own cameras and have access to information about the cameras of other residents in Bolton Hill, enabling them to communicate with each other in the event a crime occurs.

To participate in the BHCN, camera owners agree to comply with BHCN policies and procedures by filling out a form containing their camera locations and contact information, which is used only for purposes related to the camera network and will not be shared with third parties. Contact information is maintained by the BHCA safety and security committee and only shared with other participants in the BHCN and members of the BHCA Board of Directors.

Participating camera owners are given access to a private electronic platform to share and view submitted camera footage, which may also be viewed by members of the BHCA safety and

security committee and the BHCA Board of Directors. A participant in the BHCN retains full control over his or her camera(s) and the decision of whether to share any camera footage through the BHCN. Any participant in the BHCN also reserves the right to share or not to share camera footage directly with BPD, regardless of whether they also have a camera registered with CitiWatch.

Participants in the camera network may withdraw their participation in the BHCN at any time. If someone participating in the camera network moves from a particular street address, the camera(s) are no longer available unless the new resident of that address elects to participate in the camera network.

### *How it works*

The Bolton Hill community works with BPD to help solve and potentially prosecute crime. Specifically, the BHCA president, or designee, and members of the BHCA safety and security committee are points of contact for BPD in Bolton Hill. BPD does not have access to the personal information of participants in the BHCN, including camera locations.

A participant in the BHCN may be contacted by other participants in the BHCN or the BHCA president, or designee, or the BHCA safety and security committee chair if there is a possibility that a camera owned by a participant in the BHCN captured footage related to a crime. Then, the camera footage related to a crime may be shared with BPD by the BHCA president, or designee, or the BHCA safety and security committee chair with the requirement that it can be tied to a crime reported to the BPD and has a BPD report number.

A Bolton Hill Email Network (BHEN) message describing an incident of crime or suspicious activity, with or without images of the incident or a request for camera footage, may be sent to the Bolton Hill community by the BHCA president, or designee, after determining in consultation with the BHCA safety and security committee chair that knowledge of the incident will enhance future community safety and security. Video camera footage shall not be shared or posted through BHEN or social media under BHCA control.

Members of the BHCA safety and security committee report on the BHCN to the BHCA Board of Directors annually and upon request. Reports on the BHCN could include the number and type of cameras in the network; tabulations of the types of crime captured on camera footage shared with BPD; crimes solved or convictions resulting from camera footage shared with BPD; or any problems identified or suggested changes in policies and procedures of the BHCN.

*Adopted September 7, 2021. May be changed or rescinded by a majority vote of the Board.*