



Frequently asked questions about MPD's Blue Crush Cameras

What is a Blue Crush Camera?

A Blue Crush camera is an overt, stand-alone camera system housed in a weatherproof enclosure. A Blue Crush camera enclosure provides onsite recording and is capable of streaming video, in real time, to the Memphis Police Real Time Crime Center. A Blue Crush camera enclosure is equipped with blue blinking police lights and bears the Memphis Police Department logo. Blue Crush cameras are mounted on utility poles, buildings, and trailers.

Is a Blue Crush camera the same thing as a Skycop camera?

No. Skycop is one of two approved vendors producing Blue Crush camera enclosures (Dillard Door is the other). Both vendors produce camera enclosures for MPD that, when connected to MPD's Real Time Crime Center, become Blue Crush Cameras.

Who pays for Blue Crush cameras and who decides where they are installed?

The Memphis Police Department acquires funding for Blue Crush cameras from three sources.

Federal grants- Cameras purchased using federal grants are for use at a specific location. Examples of these purchases would be cameras placed along the port of Memphis to monitor river and bridge traffic.

City funds- the City of Memphis purchases cameras for some city owned buildings, parks, and public spaces frequented by large numbers of people. Examples of these purchases are cameras at police headquarters, public works facilities, and the Liberty Bowl. In 2017, the City of Memphis created the Sentinel Program. The Sentinel Program utilizes revenue generated from red light camera violations to purchase Blue Crush Camera enclosures. The Sentinel Program purchases cameras once a year. The total number of cameras purchased each year is evenly distributed to the seven city council districts. Each city councilperson is provided crime statistics for their respective districts. The councilperson uses the crime data in their district to select camera locations. The camera locations require approval from all of City Council.

Private donations- private citizens purchase Blue Crush cameras and donate them to the City of Memphis for use at a specific location. These locations can be residential and commercial.

Can you explain MPD's Camera Donation Process?

MPD's Camera Donation Process was born out of necessity. As citizens began to take notice of Blue Crush cameras being installed throughout the city, they contacted vendors and MPD hoping to purchase these same style cameras for their businesses and neighborhoods. MPD Blue Crush camera enclosures require constant power, elevation, and a stable mounting platform. Utility poles satisfied all these requirements and were abundant. MLGW would not allow privately owned cameras on public utility poles, so donating the camera systems made them city property and allowed for their installation on MLGW poles.

Since 2015, the City of Memphis has allowed individuals to purchase and donate "Blue Crush" camera enclosures to the Memphis Police Department through the Memphis/Shelby County Law Enforcement Foundation. The donation agreement stated that the donor pays for the initial cost of all equipment, installation, and five years of connectivity.

In May of 2020, MPD suspended its camera donation program. The decision to suspend the program was not an easy one, but necessary while MPD evaluates new camera equipment and a way to make MPD's camera donation program sustainable.

Can I purchase a Skycop or Dillard Door camera enclosure with blinking blue lights and not donate it to MPD?

Yes. In fact, lots of vendors produce camera enclosures equipped with blue lights. The only time you must donate the camera enclosure to MPD is if you want it installed on a city owned utility pole.

***MPD is currently evaluating camera equipment from several manufacturers due to federal mandates for NDAA compliant equipment. During this evaluation period, MPD is not accepting any donations.

How much are Blue Crush camera enclosures?

Contact Skycop or Dillard Door for a quote.

www.Skycopinc.com

www.Dillarddoor.com

Are there any grants that can assist in purchasing a Blue Crush camera for my neighborhood?

Yes, the Memphis Area Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant can be utilized for numerous equipment purchases including: additional lighting, neighborhood beautification, camera systems, doorbell cameras, signage, youth enrichment, and more. Additional information about the grant can and guidelines can be found at

www.memphistn.gov/government/Police_Department/Crime_Prevention_Grant

How much is the grant and how do I apply?

The grant offers up to \$2,500. Contact the Memphis Area Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant office at 901-636-6628 or by email at neighborhood.watch@memphistn.gov for more information.

Are all Blue Crush camera feeds monitored by MPD's Real Time Crime Center?

All camera feeds are recorded. Keep in mind, MPD'S Real Time Crime Center has almost 2,000 available camera feeds. Monitoring is based on crime trends and available staffing. In the case of a triggered event at a location equipped with a Blue Crush camera, the Real Time Crime Center can stream video and provide responding officers critical information, in real time, about an active scene.

Who should I contact if I have additional questions?

Email: MPDNeighborhoodCameras@memphistn.gov



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