The Community ECHO Program

"Building Safer Communities One Byte at a Time"

THE COMMUNITY
(((ECHO)))

Introduction

The Community ECHO program or ECHO (Electronic Community and Homeland Observation) is a community controlled Video Surveillance Program developed based on a growing need and demand by the public for increased safety, crime prevention and law enforcement presence throughout their Community.

The initial program is sponsored by several Local Businesses and Individuals and will be expanded so that each community has control of the program in their Neighborhood.

As Individual Privacy Rights are of the highest priority to any Community or Resident, the program incorporates mechanisms in many cases exceeding the requirements of Federal, State, and Local privacy laws.

As communities have grown larger and become more populated the ability of law enforcement to be on every street corner of every neighborhood is not economically or physically feasible.

ECHO "mimics" or "echoes" community and neighborhood watch style activities utilizing modern surveillance technologies allowing anonymous, non-biased discretion to assist in crime prevention and evidence recovery. ECHO is deployed in Business, Entertainment, Shopping, and Recreation areas utilized by the public to increase safety. ECHO can be deployed in residential sectors but the primary focus of the program is Public Areas.

Two of the biggest obstacles to overcome are the lack of "trust" between the public and law enforcement and the "big brother" or "others" are invading my privacy factors. These obstacles can be overcome through education to the community. Seminars and education programs for "Individuals" and "Businesses" have been developed and will be offered under the program.

ECHO can satisfy public demand for safety and crime prevention. It will create trust in the community, and create a "liaison" between Law Enforcement and the public.

See "Most Frequently Asked Questions" on reverse side for more details.

What is The Community ECHO?

The Community ECHO is a electronic community based observation system(s) program. The Community ECHO allows community and neighborhood watch style activities utilizing modern surveillance technologies and "mimics" or "echoes" these efforts to assist in crime prevention and evidence recovery. The Community ECHO is deployed in Business, Entertainment, Shopping, and Recreation areas utilized by the public to increase safety. The Community ECHO will also provide free public awareness seminars to educate the public and business owners on effective use of surveillance systems and offer economical access to products and services.

Why would I want The Community ECHO in my community?

Statistical Data collected over the previous three-year period (2013-2016) working with Law Enforcement in other major cities have shown drastic crime reduction in almost every sector of areas where Wide Area Surveillance Systems (WASS) have been deployed in the Business and Entertainment districts of their communities. In addition to crime reduction, WASS solutions provide increased efficiency in crime, accident, and hazard reconstruction efforts which provide critical information for previous and live event review.

Who Controls The Community ECHO?

Each Community participating in "The Community ECHO Program" will monitor and maintain all activities associated with their Neighborhood. Each Community will require a The Community ECHO Committee that is appointed by the specific community for these functions and to interact with Law Enforcement.

Will Big Brother and Law Enforcement be monitoring me?

NO

The Community ECHO is operated and managed by The Community ECHO Committee for each area. The primary function of The Community ECHO is for crime deterrent, crime prevention, and evidence recovery should crime occur. Because The Community ECHO is an "enterprise" or "large scale" capable system(s) utilizing many standard communication protocols it does have the ability to integrate with most Law Enforcement central monitoring locations. Integration would only occur if approved by the The Community ECHO Committee of the area.

How does The Community ECHO interact with Law Enforcement?

The Community ECHO operates within all State and Federal laws for Electronic Video Surveillance. The program "mimics" or "Echoes" the efforts of Law Enforcement and community Neighborhood Watch crime prevention and monitoring programs.

Information gathered for "evidence recovery" shall be reviewed by the local Committee in conjunction with Law Enforcement for relevance. The Committee shall manage, maintain, copy, and submit to Law Enforcement information deemed relevant as evidence against a crime.

Is The Community ECHO "secure" and "un-hackable" by outsiders?

There is no such thing as a completely "un-hackable" electronic system(s). The Community ECHO systems incorporate multi-layered security technologies and information management policies. Many security requirements for connectivity and information management within Government and Military environments for protection against unauthorized access to ECHO equipment and networks have been incorporated into the design criteria for community deployment applications.

Is The Community ECHO an electronic enforcement revenue generating program?

NO

The Community ECHO in no way mimics or operates in the same manor as Traffic Red Light Cameras, Automated Radar Ticketing systems or other "revenue generating" systems utilized by Law Enforcement.

What about Privacy Rights to me and my property?

Although laws and regulation on Community based surveillance both in the private and law enforcement sectors are limited there are specific laws in general that protect the privacy rights of individuals and property. These rights vary between public and private spaces and it is critical the individual rights are not violated. There are many ways to achieve this but it requires complete openness with individuals and their property that may be in any camera view.

The laws under the Federal Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA) are extremely clear in regard to audio and data recording, transmission of information, and monitoring of individuals and their privacy rights.

Unlike many other uses of video technology such as "Red Light" ticketing, "Automated Speed" ticketing and "License Plate Recognition" (LPR) systems that attach metadata, audio, or other additional information that could violate individual rights, ECHO provides live and recorded video with no audio or data inserted or attached to the video other than a "Digital Watermark" to assure it is authentic and unedited.

Will live video or recorded video be shared with other communities?

In most cases NO, however under local or federal warrants issued by Law Enforcement, collection and sharing of information from multiple communities may be required.

ECHO does have the ability to operate in an "enterprise" or "global" environment to allow for integration to municipal crime monitoring centers if desired. However, for effective management of outside access and individual privacy requirements it is best operated in a "Closed Network" environment. Logically, it might be more sensible for communities adjacent to each other combining efforts and still maintaining the overall intent and integrity of the system(s).

How is The Community ECHO funded?

Primarily a privately funded program through business and public contribution from the specific community, other methods such as Government Grants will be utilized if available. Additionally, through The Community ECHO Group "Matching Funds" will be contributed as well as products and services discounted from normal retail or construction pricing.

Who manages and maintains The Community ECHO program?

The Community ECHO program will be provided, managed, and maintained through the partnership of several local St. Louis based and owned businesses forming "The Community ECHO Group" of which will be expanded with new members as the program grows. The Community ECHO Group is currently comprised of several Surveillance Systems Integrators, Electrical Contractors, Services Providers, and local Business Owners with the common goal of providing a safer environment in the St. Louis communities. The products provided under the program are by well known, world class manufactures with many available standard service outlets locally and nationally. Through CCTV (closed circuit television) industry universal interface or ONVIF compliance the system(s) can be easily integrated to a Real-time Crime Center (s) if desired by the specific community.