

High Activity Location Observation (HALO) Cameras

Denver Police Department
Joseph Montoya, Division Chief

April 26th, 2022

Outline

1. Request
2. Review of HALO & its Use
3. Annual Data Review Plan
4. Q&A

Request

Resolution 22-0120: Approves a Master Purchase Order (MPO) for \$1,440,000 with Stone Security for HALO Camera Maintenance and Installation for 11/30/2021 – 11/30/2026.

This is a 3-year MPO, with two one-year renewal options.

This contract is funded through the Department of Safety's approved annual General Fund budget allocation.

What is HALO?

The Denver Police Department's (DPD) Real Time Crime & Information Center operates a system of cameras and related hardware referred to as the High Activity Location Observation (HALO) system.

The placement of overt cameras in public areas is to enhance the safety and security of the community and to reduce the fear of crime. The Denver Police Department currently operates 259 HALO cameras.

HALO cameras do not utilize facial recognition technology or any artificial intelligence.

HALO cameras do not have audio capability.

About HALO

History

- HALO cameras were implemented in the City & County of Denver in 2007.
- In 2019, the HALO team began its transformation into the Real Time Crime & Information Center.

Purpose

- The purpose of the HALO system is to increase the safety and security of the community.
- HALO cameras are often the first eyes-on-scene and can support first responders.

Locations

- An updated (April 2022) map that identifies the location of Denver Police Department HALO cameras can be found on the City's website at: <https://www.denver.gov/maps/map/halocameras>

Importance of HALO

Assists in getting first responders to the right calls and provide additional resources as needed.

Allows for a quicker response to an emergency or an incident that a victim is experiencing.

Helps keep situations from further escalating by providing responding officers with real time actionable information.

Can be utilized to either corroborate or exonerate allegations of criminal activity.



HALO Staffing

The HALO team is housed within DPD's Real Time Crime & Information Center.

- The team is composed of **11 civilians**: 1 supervisor and 10 technicians that work 10 hour shifts to provide in-person staff coverage and monitor high priority calls daily from 7:00am – 3:00am, 365 days per year.

HALO staff must pass a background check and drug screening prior to employment. They are also required to sign a confidentiality declaration upon employment, ensuring they will maintain confidentiality regarding or related to the information they are tasked with monitoring. The confidentiality agreement is required to be signed annually.

HALO Operations

- Technicians operate and utilize both fixed and PTZ (pan, tilt, zoom) cameras.
- HALO camera technicians communicate directly with 911 dispatchers to support various aspects of the emergency response
- Technicians also manage video requests. These requests may come from City Attorneys, District Attorneys, investigators, defense counsel, or others relating to cases.

Oversight & Video Retention

DPD retains video for 30 days unless it is attached to a criminal investigation or civil matter, then it will remain for the life of the related case file.

The retention of HALO camera footage is governed by strict policy and oversight. DPD's policy for retention was reviewed and vetted by the Chief Data Protection Officer for the City, during a risk impact assessment initiative at the end of 2019.



Annual Data Review Plan: Statistics

The Denver Police Department commits to completing an annual data review plan. This review plan will include:

- An updated map of camera locations by Council district will be provided to Councilmembers
- A Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) aggregate data report that shows the numbers and types of calls that HALO technicians actively supported
- Annual gun assault and homicide data where HALO evidence was available in criminal investigations

Annual Data Review Plan: Camera Placement

Online map will be updated at least annually.

Justification for removal or additional camera placement will be accomplished through a comprehensive assessment of the totality of circumstances that support the use of this limited resource.

- Circumstances to be considered will include crime and calls for service data.
- DPD will also consider volume of pedestrian and vehicle movement, volume of special events, potential for homeland security targets and any other considerations brought forth by the affected District Commander in part through conversations with community and City leadership.



Questions?