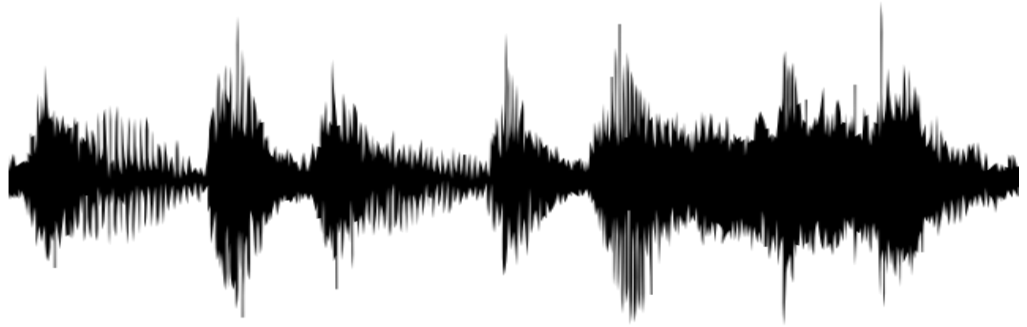


Audio Recording Systems (“Wires”)

Seattle Police Department (SPD)

What is the technology?

Audio recording devices are typically known as “wires” and can be concealed on a person or hidden in or on objects within a particular environment. Audio recording devices must be turned on by an individual and they record only portions of a conversation that occur while the device is on. Audio recording devices are utilized only after legal standards of consent and/or court-issued warrant have been met, as required by the Washington Privacy Act, Chapt. 9.73 RCW.



The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/Surveillance](https://www.seattle.gov/surveillance)

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

Why do we use the technology?

Audio recording systems allow SPD to pursue resolution of criminal investigations expeditiously by recording conversations of suspects, once an appropriate determination that sufficient probable cause exists has been made and a warrant has been issued. Per law, probable cause is required to obtain a search warrant. Audio recording systems contribute to crime reduction by assisting in collecting evidence related to serious and/or violent criminal activity as part of the investigation of criminal activity.

Collection

Audio recording devices collect conversations and sounds of individuals related to a criminal investigation. Data collected from audio recording devices is provided to the requesting Officer/Detective for inclusion in the investigation file and is stored following evidence guidelines.

Use

All audio recording systems utilized by SPD are managed and maintained with the Technical and Electronic Support Unit (TESU). TESU receives verbal requests for the deployment of this technology from SPD detectives investigating crimes and documents the equipment requested, the case number, and saves a copy of the court order authorizing the equipment’s use. TESU then deploys the equipment to the requesting Officer/Detective to engage within the scope of the consent form and/or court order

Protections

Deployment of audio recording devices is constrained to the conditions stipulated by consent and/or court order, which provides the legal authority and the scope of collection. Audio recording devices are utilized only after legal standards of consent and/or court-issued warrant have been met, as required by the Washington Privacy Act, Chapt. 9.73 RCW. Additionally, all deployments of audio recording devices are documented by TESU and subject to audit by the Office of Inspector General and the federal monitor at any time.