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Police Department Installs In-Car Video Systems

The Albany Police Department installed a new in-car video system that will record officers' on patrol and any encounters they have or incidents they investigate.

The system which was installed on December 2, 2009, was funded by a combination of a \$100,000 federal grant and a Common Council approved \$280,000 bond.

The installation project, which was spearheaded by Assistant Chief Anthony Bruno, includes 47 patrol cars installed with a Panasonic Toughbook digital video recording system.

The cameras are mounted below the ceiling inside the patrol car and can swivel 360 degrees, record audio and are activated when the car is started. They record on a continuous 30 second loop and can be activated to record longer, which automatically occurs when the car's emergency lights are turned on or if the car exceeds 55 miles an hour.

Utilizing the city's wireless broadband network the system uploads the recordings to the department's computer system during the course of the officer's shift. This eliminates any need to manually download recorded video at the end of a shift.

The video will be saved for 30 days unless there is a request to save specific recordings for a longer period of time for evidence or further investigations. The video will be stored and secured with the Office of Professional Standards.

Deputy Chief Steven Krokoff stated, "This new video system is another step in our commitment to utilize state of the art technology to enhance our policing ability and performance while providing additional protection for our officers and citizens."