

Subject: Exterior Security Cameras Update

Date: 8-15-17

Since our last memo to you concerning the Ring doorbell camera, CAG has done more research and testing of exterior Wi-Fi enabled cameras. There are over 10 well-regarded companies pushing these new wireless cameras. We view the Ring Doorbell camera as an excellent product for coverage of the front door of Georgetown homes. Moreover, the Ring camera with floodlights is an excellent camera to consider for protection in back yards and alleys where a motion activated camera is useful. Both record to the Cloud for easy access from a smart phone or computer anywhere there is an internet signal.

The Google Nest Outdoor camera is the most suitable and effective at its price point for monitoring the fronts of homes, sidewalks and streets. The Nest Outdoor camera "records continually" (does not rely on motion), something that most of the other Wi-Fi enabled cameras on the market do not do. Continuous recording is critical to not having video gaps which result in the loss of crucial information. The Nest Outdoor camera also has very good overall resolution, night IR, and an impressive 130-degree field of view.

Independent surveys rank the Google Nest Outdoor camera highly. The cost of 10 days of cloud storage is \$100 per year (\$300 per year for 30 days cloud storage). It has been our experience that most criminal incidents that occur in Georgetown are known to residents within the first ten-day period (most within 24 hours) making the \$100 price tag practical and affordable.

Under the current DC security camera incentive program, the purchase of a Nest Outdoor camera, Ring doorbell, and/or Ring floodlight camera may cost homeowners very little or nothing. The program provides a rebate of up to \$200 per exterior camera and a maximum rebate of \$500 per residential address. While the rebate applies to exterior cameras other than the ones listed above, we have found through our research and field testing that the Nest Outdoor, Ring Doorbell, and Ring Floodlight cameras all are superior products.

The Nest camera requires drilling a 3/4-inch hole through the window casing (preferably above reach on the 1st or 2nd floor) for the power wire. The camera can sit unobtrusively on your window sill and be secured with two screws. The power wire is designed to plug into any receptacle. Of course, if an outside receptacle is available that could be used as an alternative. In general, we recommend the purchase of an outdoor camera which is wire powered, as opposed to battery operated, to ensure continuous operation in all weather.

A strong wireless signal is required for most Wi-Fi enabled cameras. The Nest Outdoor camera for example requires an upload speed of greater than two (2) megabits per second, a speed supplied by most Comcast routers (although a range extender may be required depending on location of the router). Before purchasing an exterior Wi-Fi enabled camera, check the signal speed at the desired location of the camera using one of the free apps for your phone or computer.

Block captains are urged to seriously consider the purchase of a street side Nest Outdoor camera which, for a very low price (or with the rebate-nothing), can further your own safety and that of your neighbors. It may also motivate residents of your block to do the same, thus greatly

enhancing the safety of Georgetown. Via links below, we are including clips illustrating the Nest Outdoor Camera installed in our CAG office. You are also welcome to visit our office for a live look at the camera in operation. Please call before coming.

Disclaimer: Although the CAG co-Chairs and staff have done due diligence regarding our camera suggestions, we urge you to perform your own research before making any decision.

Click [HERE](#) to view D.C.'s camera rebate program.

Click [HERE](#) to view a Cnet review of the Nest Outdoor camera.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Nest Outdoor camera on Amazon.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Ring Outdoor camera with Motion-Activated Floodlights on Amazon.

Click [HERE](#) to view a Cnet review of 19 other outdoor cameras.

Sincerely,
CAG Public Safety Committee