





19

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CORPORATE SECURITY NEWS

"Big Brother Isn't Watching All of Boston" Boston Globe (02/08/05); Daniel, Mac

The Boston Police Department monitored about 90 different surveillance cameras during its effort to ensure that post-Super Bowl celebrations did not turn riotous. Most of the cameras were shared video feeds from universities, city agencies, and state agencies. Civil libertarians have been closely monitoring the city's use of video cameras, which have been a necessary part of the security efforts surrounding recent events in the city, including the Democratic National Convention (DNC), the Red Sox World Series celebration, Patriots Super Bowl celebration, and the recent Patriots parade. The Boston Police Department has 10 wireless cameras that it uses only during major security events, and it still uses 29 of the 75 high-tech video cameras that were installed for the DNC. Department spokesman Thomas Sexton indicated that the department is taking privacy concerns into consideration when it uses the cameras. "We're not installing them without serious input from the communities where they could potentially be deployed," Sexton said. Seven wireless and 10 hard-wired cameras will soon be installed in the city's Chinatown area, where violent crime and drug dealing is on the rise. The department's lawyers have created rules on the use of the cameras, including a ban on aiming the cameras inside buildings and prohibiting them from targeting a specific ethnic group.