



Modesto Cameras Trained on Downtown Clubs

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MODESTO, CA - Modesto police are using a camera system to keep an eye on downtown night spots.

Ten cameras are aimed at five different intersections near the city's nightclub district to help catch and cut down on illegal activity.

"It's a small percentage of people. A lot of good people come downtown to enjoy, but a small number come here to cause problems," said Modesto police Lt. Ron Cloward.

The cameras feed live images to a series of monitors and computers that can also record and store images. The system cost the city \$240,000.

Cloward said the camera system was being considered before a violent incident a few years ago that had people calling for tighter security near Modesto nightclubs.

"Club owners and businesses don't like having police cars right in front of their businesses and we understand that. Now the cameras give us the ability. We won't have to have someone right there with eyes on. The cameras allow us to be the eyes on. These guys can stay mobile, and if we have a problem, we can bring them to the problem," said Cloward.

One of the cameras is so close to Doubletree Hotel, police took steps to calm any fears the cameras were being misused. A large horizontal strip has been electronically added to the lens to keep operators from being able to see hotel rooms.

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