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# Lansing State Journal

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AMID VIOLENCE FEARS, COLLEGES SPEND MILLIONS ON SECURITY CAMERAS



## Electronic eyes keep watch on campuses

Some have privacy concerns in age of growing protests

John Wisely Detroit Free Press | USA TODAY NETWORK

Universities across Michigan and around the country are spending millions upgrading surveillance systems they say are needed to prevent and solve crimes and hasten emergency responses on campus.

Civil libertarians say the systems do little to prevent crime and can be used to invade privacy and chill free speech on campus in an age of protest.

The presence and the absence of security cameras came into sharp focus in 2023 when a gunman killed three people and wounded five others at Michigan State University.

While thousands of people on campus hurried to shelter in place, police were scanning through hundreds of security camera feeds in search of the gunman. It took three hours to find an image to release to the public, but it took just 17 minutes for someone to call 911 to report his location once it was out.

Michigan State has upgraded safety systems across its campus over the past two years, including spending more than \$4 million on cameras and software alone. Wayne State is spending about \$4.9 million to add 1,200 new cameras to the 2,700 already in use. Earlier this year, the University of Michigan sought bids to replace older cameras at the entrances and exits of every building on campus and the school's medical center as part of its Security Technology Enhancement Project.

See CAMERAS, Page 2A

“I’m concerned that U-M is conditioning students to live in a surveillance society where their every move is monitored.”

Michael Steinberg  
law professor at U-M  
who runs the school's Civil Rights  
Litigation Initiative

AT TOP: A Michigan State University Police camera overlooks a person on North Neighborhood on the MSU campus in East Lansing on Aug. 14. The MSU system has more than 2,700 cameras.

FINN GOMEZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## Former shelter director indicted

Prosecutors target alleged theft of federal funding

Rachel Greco  
Lansing State Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

GRAND RAPIDS - More than two years after an Eaton County nonprofit domestic violence and homeless shelter reported money had disappeared from its accounts, the former executive director has been indicted.

Teri Lyn Looney, 53, of Dimondale was indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly embezzling from SIREN Eaton Shelter, based in Charlotte, U.S. Attorney Timothy VerHey announced.

The specific charge relates to accusations of theft from a program receiving federal funds.

See EMBEZZLEMENT, Page 3A

## Cook should release mortgage documents, Dem says

Maureen Groppe  
USA TODAY NETWORK – MICHIGAN

WASHINGTON – Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook should release her mortgage documents as she fights President Donald Trump’s attempt to remove her, Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna told NBC.

“She should be transparent so that we see that this is just a political football,” Khanna, a leading progressive voice from California, said on “Meet the Press with Kristen Welker.”

See COOK, Page 3A

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