



Cook County Digital Photography Project

Thank you for taking an interest in the activities of the Digital Photography Project.

Cook County, through the Cook County Department of Office Technology, has contracted with Mobile Video Services, Inc. to digitally photograph the exterior of every residence and business in the County and validate its address.

County agencies use the digital photography from this project for daily decision support: examples include the Assessor's Office, the Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB), the Sheriff's Office, and others.

Cook County citizens will benefit from the increased efficiencies of County personnel, and the enhanced abilities of the public safety agencies.

Project Goals and Benefits

- ◆ Validate property addresses to identify homes and businesses for fire, police and medical emergency response.
- ◆ Improve the overall quality of property tax appraisals.
- ◆ Complete a property inventory of all improved parcels in the County.
- ◆ Save taxpayers money by making the property tax administration process more efficient.
- ◆ Assist homeowners and businesses with "before" photos in case of losses.
- ◆ Enhance emergency management recovery reports necessary for state and federal assistance.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation with this important project.

If you have questions, please call Cook County Department of Office Technology

312-603-2055

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Frequently asked questions:

What is the Cook County Digital Photography Project?

Cook County, through the Cook County Department of Office Technology, has contracted with Mobile Video Services, Inc. to digitally photograph the exterior of every residence and business in the County and validate its address. This project will run through 2008.

What will the County do with these pictures?

Having photos of every property allows County agencies to perform a number of duties, including more accurate assessments, more accurate emergency dispatching, planning for disaster management and increased support of homeland security.

How often does the County take these pictures?

The County's first digital photography project was done in 1999-2001. The photos that are currently seen on the Assessor's website (www.cookcountyassessor.com) came from this project. This new project is an attempt to update our photos in order to bring more efficient services to the taxpayers of Cook County.