



Seattle Community Police Commission

STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 21, 2024

CPC Official Statement on SPD's Technology Assisted Crime Prevention Pilot Program

As a matter of principle, the Seattle Community Police Commission (CPC) opposes law enforcement's increasing reliance on automated cameras and microphones to surveil City residents who are simply going about their daily lives. However, a significant number of CPC Commissioners report that the communities they represent are profoundly suffering from the daily trauma of increasing gun violence in Seattle. Because of these concerns, the CPC does not oppose a time-limited and location-limited surveillance pilot with the primary aim of reducing gun violence in our City. This includes the new technologies proposed by the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to "help the City's public safety response to aid victims, locate and preserve evidence and hold accountable those responsible for gun violence."

We understand that the overriding purpose of the Acoustic Gunshot Location System (AGLS) combined with the Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) camera system is to obtain more accurate information about specific gun violence as it is occurring so that it can be more quickly conveyed through the Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) to responding officers. The Surveillance Impact Reports (SIR) for each of these technologies detail numerous privacy protections and limitations including 30-day retention limits, encryption, restricted access, and data reporting. Most importantly, significant oversight authority is given to our accountability partner, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

We have a number of concerns about the use of these technologies in the four potential pilot areas (Aurora Avenue North, Belltown, Chinatown-International District, Downtown Commercial Core). To increase privacy and civil liberties protections and to prevent SPD misuse of these new technologies, we ask City leaders to consider the following additional limits as they decide whether or not to go forward with this pilot:

1. **Time limits:** A two-year time limit should be imposed on the pilot. None of the three SIRs contains an end ("sunset") date. We believe that two years is enough time for SPD and OIG to determine whether or not these technologies reduce gun violence in Seattle.

2. **Metrics measurement:** The SIRs should contain more specifics about the metrics of how success or failure will be measured, e.g., a certain percent reduction in gun violence and/or an increase in gun-related arrests or convictions.
 - a. Clarify what those metrics are, how they're being used, what success looks like, and share that information with the public; and
 - b. Determine the metrics *before* implementing any new use of these technologies and choose an implementation date that allows enough time to do so.

3. **Community engagement:** Targeted outreach to the four pilot communities beyond posted warnings should be required. Educational community meetings should be held in each of the pilot areas so that residents can learn about the technologies and ask questions about camera and microphone locations, what privacy protections they will have and how they can access the data.
 - a. Conduct more community engagement to clarify that there are three distinct technologies being proposed; and
 - b. Require continuous community engagement and feedback from the community.

4. **Program end process:** Should SPD determine at the end of the two years to expand the pilot and/or make it permanent, city leaders should require that the SIR process be repeated before the program is made permanent or expanded. At the end of the two-year pilot period, SPD should also:
 - a. Share the program findings to determine whether success metrics were met, both qualitative and quantitative; and
 - b. Note any unintended consequences of the technology implementation and share that information with the public.

Thank you for considering our ideas.

This statement was passed by vote of the Commissioners of the CPC on March 20, 2024 at its [Bi-Monthly Public Meeting](#). The CPC listens to, amplifies, and builds common ground among communities affected by policing in Seattle. We champion policing practices centered in justice and equity. The CPC is independent and led by volunteer commissioners. Learn more about the CPC at seattle.gov/community-police-commission.

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