

From: Seattle Community Surveillance Working Group (CSWG)  
To: Seattle City Council  
Date: Dec 15, 2020  
Re: Privacy and Civil Liberties Impact Assessment for Video Recording Systems

## Executive Summary

The CSWG has completed its review of the Surveillance Impact Reports (SIRs) for the three surveillance technologies included in Group 3 of the Seattle Surveillance Ordinance technology review process. These technologies are Forward Looking Infrared, Video Recording Systems, and Situational Awareness Cameras Without Recording. This document is the CSWG's Privacy and Civil Liberties Impact Assessment for Video Recording Systems as set forth in SMC 14.18.080(B)(1), which we provide for inclusion in the final SIRs submitted to the City Councils.

This document first provides our recommendations to Council, then provides background information, key concerns, and outstanding questions regarding Video Recording Systems.

Our assessment of Video Recording Systems as used by Seattle Police Department (SPD) focuses on three major issues:

1. The capabilities of the Genetec and Milestone systems are unclear.
2. It is unclear how data are collected, stored, and protected; additional policy language is necessary to define valid purposes of use

## Recommendations:

We recommend that the Council adopt, at a minimum, clear and enforceable rules that ensure the following:

1. **SPD must abide by a specific and restricted purpose of use:** The ordinance should define a specific purpose of use for any video recording systems used by SPD, and any use must be restricted to that specific purpose.
2. **SPD must not use any video recording systems that have capabilities beyond what is strictly necessary to fulfill the purpose of use (e.g., recording custodial interrogations).** The ordinance should prohibit incorporating additional services such as facial recognition systems with the video recording systems.

## Outstanding Questions

1. Does SPD use a Genetec or Milestone partner add-on that enables facial recognition or other biometric data collection/identification?
2. How are firmware/software updates applied to the Genetec systems?
3. What security practices does SPD follow?
4. Where does the SPD Evidence Section store the Genetec-generated recordings and Milestone recordings they receive?
5. For both the Genetec and Milestone systems, who has permission to modify the pan, tilt, and/or zoom of the cameras?