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**DATE:** Monday, February 24, 2025  
**TIME:** 7:00 p.m.  
**PLACE:** 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

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The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, February 24, 2025, at 7:02 p.m.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT:** Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty\*, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

**\*CM PRESENT REMOTELY**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bourema Ouedraogo, Kevin Garcia, Demond Dade, Seok Hyun Cho, Steve Doggett, Josh Ingold, Peyton Kaiser, Ross Steidinger, Nick Walker, Hanson Rieches, Dave Smysor, Larry Boone, Carol Mitten, Will Kolschowsky, Matt Roeschley

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Seth Fein, Managing Partner at Fernie's High Horse; Patrick Singer, Managing Partner at Fernie's High Horse

## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:02p.m.

## 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

### a. 01-21-2025 Committee of the Whole Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Hursey.

Voice Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

## 3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

## 4. Presentations and Public Input

### a. Fire Department Promotions

Demond Dade, Fire Chief presented the promotions of the following individuals: Steve Doggett, Deputy Chief; Josh Ingold, Lieutenant; Peyton Kaiser, Engineer; Ross Steidinger, Firefighter; Nick Walker, Firefighter; and Hanson Rieches, Firefighter.

Introduced Firefighters Ross Steidinger, Hanson Rieches, and Nick Walker. Ross Steidinger was

pinned by his wife, Julie Steidinger; Nick Walker was pinned by his mother Sue Walker; and Hanson Rieches was pinned by his grandfather, Ronnie Rieches after being sworn in by Mayor Marlin.

Introduced Peyton Kaiser, Engineer and spoke on his 6 years of experience with the Urbana Fire Department and his efforts in leading four bicycle rides across the United States to raise money for charity. Peyton Kaiser was pinned by his mother, Missy Kaiser and sworn in by Mayor Marlin. Shared Peyton Kaiser's great-great grandfather served as a firefighter for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and his grandfather had also served in the Urbana Fire Department.

Introduced Josh Ingold, Lieutenant and shared his 11 years of service with the Urbana Fire Department and his previous service with the Army National Guard. Josh Ingold was pinned by his wife, Jenn Ingold and sworn in by Mayor Marlin. Spoke on Josh Ingold's participation on the Fire Pension Board, his HazMat Technician experience, and his membership on the Training Committee.

Introduced Steve Doggett, Deputy Chief and spoke on his 26 years spent in fire service with 19 of those years spent with the Urbana Fire Department. Shared his 15 years of experience on the Urbana Fire Department's Executive Board, 7 years of being the President of Local #1147 of the International Association of Fire Fighters union, and the last 4 years he spent as the Director of the State Fire Academy at the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Steve Doggett was pinned by his wife, Shannon Doggett and sworn in by Mayor Marlin. Shared Steve Doggett also holds a master's degree in public administration from the Springfield campus of the University of Illinois.

## **b. Public Input**

**Ben Joselyn** congratulated the promoted members of the Urbana Fire Department and shared his sister recently joined a Fire Department in the State of Washington. Voiced appreciation for Council's work on Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. Stated the presentation from the Urbana Police Department (UPD) displaying their physical surveillance technologies was disingenuous as it did not cover the surveillance technologies in their patrol cars and software being used. Stated the UPD also acts in bad faith when they argue that they are being treated unfairly despite the large increases to their budget year over year that no other department in the City sees. Stated Council supports the UPD and treats them fairly, and the perception from the UPD of the unfair treatment is a failure of their leadership. Expressed support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. **Bryan Maxwell** voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. Stated the presentation on Cellebrite last week did not cover the global context of the use of Cellebrite as it originated from Israel, a country currently charged with genocide under the leadership of a war criminal. Further stated the surveillance technology was developed on the captive Palestinian population, now being marketed and sold worldwide. Stated Cellebrite has been questioned by organizations advocating for human rights as the technology has been used in abusing human rights and provided examples from Hong Kong, Botswana, and Russia. Stated the violation of human rights is not a distant threat as students and community members are being charged felonies for protesting against the federal government's participation in arming Israel. Encouraged Council to read a [recent article from TruthOut](#) covering the UIUC Police Department's (UIPD) use of license plate readers and other tools to track protestors months after the protests. **Addison Grey** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and expressed alarm regarding the use of Cellebrite. Stated the public only recently discovered the use of Cellebrite by the UPD and that raises concern on the UPD's transparency and accountability to the public. Voiced distrust toward UPD due to their use of Cellebrite without the public's awareness and consent. Stated the development and implementation of an

Alternative Response Task Force began a year ago but has failed to find its footing while the UPD continues to see increases to its budget, in opposition to demands from the community. Stated the use of surveillance technologies contribute to the persecution of protestors and repress First Amendment rights. Stated the residents of Cunningham Township have voted against using tax monies to fund military aid for Israel and they would also not be in support of using Israeli technology in surveilling the local community. Stated Cellebrite technology also has significant security risks in its hardware and software. **Berry Zhang** voiced concerns regarding the City's contracting of Cellebrite technologies to surveil its residents. Shared support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. Stated the City's contract with Cellebrite is harmful to the community of Urbana, which has a large Muslim and Arab population, as the technology has historically been used to target those communities and other communities of color. Stated the previous action of calling for a ceasefire through Resolution No. 2024-03-013R seems hollow due to the use of Cellebrite. **Farrak** read from the previously mentioned article co-authored by Brian Dolinar detailing the UIPD's efforts in pursuing felony mob-action charges against demonstrators who participated in encampments on campus. Spoke against the use of Cellebrite in the City of Urbana and voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042.

*Written Public Input in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 was received from the following individual but was not requested to be read: Lilah Leopold.*

## 5. Council Input and Communications

**CM Wilken** congratulated those who were promoted in the Urbana Fire Department and the public for providing input and attending the meeting. **CM Quisenberry** congratulated those who were promoted in the Urbana Fire Department. Shared a reminder for the ongoing Consolidated Primary Election and that voting locations will be open from 6:00a.m. to 7:00p.m. tomorrow. Stated the Champaign County Clerk has information regarding polling sites and called on the public to have their voices heard through the election. **CM Bishop** congratulated those who were promoted in the Urbana Fire Department and also voiced appreciation for the service that the UPD provide to the City of Urbana. Stated it is also her duty to stand with the majority of the community to create representative legislation that reflects the will of the public. Stated the voices protesting Cellebrite were absent during the recent deaths to gun violence in the community. Expressed commitment to fostering trust between the community and UPD with a priority on creating solutions to challenges faced by the City. **CM Hursey** voiced support and thanks to the Urbana Fire Department for the services they provide. Echoed a reminder to vote in the Consolidated Primary Election to have your voice heard. **Mayor Marlin** stated the Alternative Response Task Force is not stalled as work continues with the request for proposals (RFP) is currently active to locate a new facilitator. Stated the task force members remain committed to the process. **CM Kolisetty** congratulated those who were promoted in the Urbana Fire Department and voiced appreciation for all first responders who have responded to the recent violence in the community. Expressed concern regarding initial conversation around domestic violence within Urbana. Hoped for more data-driven and evidence-based solutions to be discussed by the City. Thanked the presenters from the Advocates for Aging Care and shared she has personally experienced the barriers in attempting find a skilled nursing facility within the community. Emphasized the need for transparency and engagement on the local level due to the current federal administration, urged the community to vote.

## 6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (*Council Member Maryalice Wu, Ward 1*)

1. Consent Agenda

- a. ~~Resolution No. 2025-02-016R: A Resolution Approving a Redevelopment Agreement with MCDJ, LLC (CU Adventures in Time and Space Expansion, 302 North Broadway Avenue) – CD~~

~~The Resolution approves a Redevelopment Agreement with MCDJ, LLC to provide Tax Increment Finance funds for capital improvements to the building at 302 North Broadway Avenue to accommodate a business expansion of CU Adventures in Time and Space.~~

- b. ~~Resolution No. 2025-02-017R: A Resolution Approving a Redevelopment Agreement with Race Street Ventures, LLC (Fernie’s High Horse, 118-120 South Race Street) – CD~~

~~The Resolution approves a Redevelopment Agreement with Race Street Ventures, LLC to provide Tax Increment Finance funds for capital improvements for a full rehabilitation of two buildings located in the Central Tax Increment Financing District to create a performance and entertainment venue.~~

- c. ~~Ordinance No. 2025-02-005: An Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit (809 W. Green St. / Plan Case No. 2496-SU-24 – Dutch Bros Coffee) – CD~~

~~The Ordinance approves a special use permit for a drive-through as an accessory use to a fast-food restaurant.~~

*All items were moved to the Regular Agenda by CM Wu.*

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2025-02-016R:** A Resolution Approving a Redevelopment Agreement with MCDJ, LLC (CU Adventures in Time and Space Expansion, 302 North Broadway Avenue) – CD

The Resolution approves a Redevelopment Agreement with MCDJ, LLC to provide Tax Increment Finance funds for capital improvements to the building at 302 North Broadway Avenue to accommodate a business expansion of CU Adventures in Time and Space. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

- b. Resolution No. 2025-02-017R:** A Resolution Approving a Redevelopment Agreement with Race Street Ventures, LLC (Fernie’s High Horse, 118-120 South Race Street) – CD

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst/Assistant to the City Administrator with Seth Fein, Managing Partner at Fernie’s High Horse and Patrick Singer, Managing Partner at Fernie’s High Horse present for questions. The Resolution approves a Redevelopment Agreement with Race Street Ventures, LLC to provide Tax Increment Finance funds for capital improvements for a full rehabilitation of two buildings located in the Central Tax Increment Financing District to create a performance and entertainment venue. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

**ABSTAIN:** Evans

- c. Ordinance No. 2025-02-005:** An Ordinance Approving a Special Use Permit (809 W. Green St. / Plan Case No. 2496-SU-24 – Dutch Bros Coffee) – CD

The Ordinance approves a special use permit for a drive-through as an accessory use to a fast-food restaurant. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve by CM Wu, seconded by CM Bishop.

Roll Call Vote:

**AYE:** Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

**NAY:** None.

## 8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

## 9. Reports of Officers

**Carol Mitten** informed the Council that in a month, the City expects the Imagine Urbana Comprehensive Plan will be sent to Council from the Plan Commission. Stated polls will be sent to Councilmembers to gauge availability for additional special meetings to specifically discuss the Comprehensive Plan. **Will Kolschowsky** stated the RFP for an Alternative Response Task Force Facilitator will have its deadline extended by a month as no proposals have been received yet. **Mayor Marlin** stated the City received the results of the Partial Special Census from the Census Bureau and it saw an increase of around 2,500 to the population count to now total 40,795. Thanked City Staff, Will Kolschowsky, Tarek Azim, former Councilmember Bill Brown, Bridget Broihahn, and the residents who responded to the census. Stated the City will see an increase in population-based funding from the State of Illinois such as Local Motor Fuel Tax funds and funds from the State Income Tax, increasing annual revenue from the state by around \$600,000. Stated the final bill will be received from the Census Bureau in the next three months and hoped for it to not exceed the \$391,000 the City has already paid. **Carol Mitten** added the population count of around 40,800 is close to the 41,000-estimate included in the Financial Forecast and affirms the predictions made. **CM Quisenberry** thanked Mayor Marlin and Council for investing in the Special Census to correct the mistakes from the most recent Census and strategically targeting specific tracts where the most growth was anticipated. Stated if the City had the capacity to fully survey the entirety of Urbana, the population may be closer to 42,000.

## 10. Discussion

### a. Scope of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 (Police Surveillance Technology)

Mayor Marlin introduced the item, stating the discussion was placed on the agenda for Council to clarify the scope of the Ordinance and intent of the Council before City Staff continue their internal review. CM Quisenberry stated he had only considered the Ordinance to cover surveillance technologies used solely in law enforcement, not across all City departments. Requested elaboration on the expansion in coverage from law enforcement surveillance technologies to surveillance technologies used across all City departments. CM Wu agreed the scope should focus on police surveillance. CM Wilken stated the thought process behind the changes made in collaboration with City Attorney Matt Roeschley was a request to change the wording from “policing technology” to “surveillance technology” when the intent may have been to change the wording instead to “policing surveillance technology”. Mayor Marlin confirmed the original request was to change the wording from “policing technology” to “surveillance technology”. CM Wilken stated the definition of “surveillance technology” would practically cover law enforcement surveillance technology being used and also should potentially cover future departments that may implement the use of surveillance technologies. Stated the Ordinance should cover all surveillance technology as it should not be limited to solely the UPD. Stated databases are defined within the Ordinance as information generated by surveillance technologies and noted a recommendation from the previous week to adjust the language to cover “surveillance technologies and related databases”. CM Wu stated that was not how she originally interpreted the Ordinance and accepted the intent of covering databases originating from surveillance technologies. CM Wilken read the definition of surveillance data from the Ordinance after the original update.

CM Wu asked if body cameras, squad car cameras, and the data they generate are excluded from the Ordinance. CM Wilken stated an exemption listed in the Ordinance are cameras installed on police vehicles and cameras installed pursuant to State law. Agreed certain items regulated by State law need further clarity and asked City Attorney Matt Roeschley for input. City Attorney Matt Roeschley noted body cameras are an exception in similar Ordinances adopted in other cities and must be exempt based on State law.

CM Wu asked if there are any surveillance technologies being used outside of the UPD. City Administrator Carol Mitten stated the City departments have been requested to compile any potential surveillance technologies they may be using. Stated some have reported using tools such as Placer.AI to support economic development through having the private company track cellphone location data and share with the City how people engage with businesses across Urbana. Stated during Traffic Impact Analyses, information is gathered through cameras on the density of traffic and the ways in which people turn. Stated the City is hoping to receive clarification on what is considered a surveillance tool from tools used in an investigative capacity and what Council hopes to address.

CM Wu asked if the concern is with personal identifying information or if the concern is with any data collected on individuals. Stated the emphasis should be on personal identifying information. CM Bishop agreed the focus should be on information that could identify a specific individual.

CM Hursey requested input from UPD regarding how surveillance is defined from a law enforcement perspective. Chief of Police Larry Boone stated surveillance technology is seen as self-operated technology such as automated license plate readers (ALPR). Stated the UPD does not have technology that randomly identifies an individual without the need for a search

warrant or consent. Stated he has no issue with the Ordinance, but the high level of surveillance equipment used in the City of Boston's Police Department, which the Ordinance is designed for, would make the implementation of the Ordinance for the City of Urbana difficult and time consuming.

CM Wilken encouraged everyone to review the currently proposed definitions provided in the packet as they define what is considered surveillance technology. Stated exclusions already exist for cameras mandated by State law, technology installed pursuant to State law, and technology that records traffic patterns and traffic violations. Stated further exemptions can be included, but that is difficult for Council to add as they may not be fully aware of all technologies being used. Noted social media monitoring technologies would also be considered to be surveillance technology under the Ordinance and further information is required to clarify its use within the UPD.

CM Quisenberry supported the Ordinance focusing on technology that could collect personal identifying information. Expressed concern for anonymized tracking tools and stated those technologies should not be covered by the Ordinance. Stated the tracking data when used to investigate where an individual may live can be considered crossing the line into surveillance. Expressed concern on how to discern the use of social media in a surveillance or investigative capacity. Stated reading into public posts from an individual before an event occurred should be considered investigative while an automated software that filters through posts should be considered surveillance. City Administrator Carol Mitten requested further discussion along this line to clarify what qualifies as surveillance and what can be considered investigative. Asked if the activity of surveillance technologies to be regulated or if those technologies could be used in an exclusively investigatory capacity without Council review. Asked Deputy Chief of Police Dave Smysor if the State of Illinois has a database for facial recognition. Deputy Chief of Police Dave Smysor confirmed the State of Illinois has a database for facial recognition that the UPD has access to when necessary for an investigation. City Administrator Carol Mitten asked if the Council intends to regulate the act of utilizing that kind of database or if that activity could be considered exempted. CM Wilken stated the Ordinance applies to all surveillance technology, regardless of use and splitting between the purpose of a technology is losing the focus of the discussion. Stated the Ordinance is intended to establish which technologies apply, the approval process for a technology, and the reporting on surveillance technologies. Stated those questions could be answered through the requirement of the development of use-policies for surveillance technologies. City Administrator Carol Mitten requested further input from Council on how they view the intent of the Ordinance. Stated the inclusion of investigative activity creates more concerns.

CM Hursey asked CM Wilken if every single use of social media for investigating into a case required UPD to come before Council for approval. CM Wilken stated that is not what the Ordinance states and the use of a technology would be regulated by use-policies. Further stated social media monitoring software differs from regularly accessing social media.

CM Wu stated surveillance can be defined as indiscriminate monitoring of personal data such as ALPRs. CM Bishop agreed and stated investigative technologies should be differentiated from surveillance technologies. CM Quisenberry voiced support for a distinction between investigative and surveillance technologies. Stated the context of surveillance also can vary in various scenarios. Spoke against the use of facial recognition technologies at peaceful protests to determine identities of protestors. Expressed concern for mass data collection on individuals and not investigative tools used when cause is found for their use. CM Wilken voiced appreciation for input and stated the issue with defining between what is surveillance and what is investigatory is that they are intertwined and on a spectrum. Stated the surveillance conducted on the peaceful protestors with facial recognition technology may move to become considered

investigative as felony charges are being currently being pursued. Voiced support for the Ordinance covering the technology and then defining what is an authorized use through policy. CM Bishop stated the commission of a crime would begin investigation activities and the application of technology would no longer be considered surveillance. CM Kolisetty emphasized the importance of the example provided by CM Wilken and stated many of the questions have been answered within the Ordinance and packet materials already provided. Stated some sources of the urgency behind the Ordinance are due to concerns regarding the federal administration and how it may directly impact the UPD. Emphasized the importance of moving the Ordinance forward to message to the public the City is going to put protections in place to prevent the endangerment of residents and people travelling to Urbana. Stated the example of the surveillance of peaceful protestors illustrates the need for an Ordinance to outline the use of technologies that may intersect with both surveillance and investigation activities. CM Wu noted the arrests of the protestors did not arise from the UPD or Urbana City Staff members. Stated UIPD were able to identify protestors through drones and ALPRs, but the City of Urbana does not have the physical technology to remotely surveil its residents. Voiced support for distinguishing between investigative and surveillance technologies. CM Hursey acknowledged the fears of being federally surveilled and stated the federal government has the resources available to surveil residents of Urbana even without the cooperation of the City. Expressed concern for the potential harmful ripple effects of the UPD not having access to particular surveillance technologies.

Mayor Marlin asked if the scope of the Ordinance should be expanded to all City departments. CM Wu requested a strawpoll vote.

**Strawpoll:** Expanding the scope of the Ordinance to include all City departments.

**AYE:** 2

**NAY:** 4

CM Wu requested a strawpoll to distinguish between investigative and surveillance technologies and focus the Ordinance on non-investigative surveillance technologies. CM Wilken called a point of order as investigative and surveillance technologies have not been sufficiently defined to call the strawpoll. CM Wu asked for the definitions to be set and mentioned the examples provided by CM Bishop as potential ways to define them. CM Quisenberry agreed the definitions should be set and written.

CM Wilken stated further deliberation is required to define those terms, and requested Council consider what is considered to be a crime and where an action may be a crime. Spoke on the neighboring States where abortions have been made illegal and how abortion seekers may travel to the State of Illinois where abortions are legal, but prosecutors from the neighboring States may be investigating into activities done in the State of Illinois. Further extended the consideration to potential mass checks on immigration status where it may be considered a legitimate investigation into crime elsewhere, despite it not being conducted by the UPD. CM Quisenberry stated those definitions are well-defined by Illinois State law and the direction for the State of Illinois is consistently discussed by Governor Pritzker. CM Bishop requested the Ordinance and discussion focus on the UPD's activities and what is within the City's purview.

CM Wilken stated the scope of the Ordinance extends beyond the City and the UPD as police departments and jurisdictions share data with one another with many other entities having access to that data. Stated the use-policies for technologies would define methods of use for the UPD and the City, but also other entities accessing our data. CM Hursey asked Chief of Police Larry Boone to address those hypothetical scenarios. Chief of Police Larry Boone stated the UPD operates under Illinois State law regarding investigations on immigration and abortions. Stated oversight already exists for the topics being discussed and he will cooperate with Council

in developing this Ordinance. Highlighted the social media software used by the City of Boston's Police Department can capture individual personal location and contact information if discussing a crime such as a shooting, but the UPD does not have access to that software. CM Kolisetty stated those issues can be resolved through additions to the Ordinance clarifying statements. Stated the Ordinance is also regarding transparency and language stating the UPD will continue to operate in compliance with local and State law can be included.

## 11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 9:08p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

**Minutes approved: 4/7/25**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT 2-24-2025  
**Date:** Monday, February 24, 2025 1:59:32 PM

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**\*\*\* Email From An External Source \*\*\***  
Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Council Members Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry,

I submit the below as Public Comment for tonight's council meeting.

I, Lilah Leopold, Urbana resident (Ward 4), write in continued support of the Police Surveillance Technology Oversight Ordinance authored by Alderperson Grace Wilken of Ward 6. I thank all members of council for your continued discussion and serious consideration of this Ordinance at tonight's meeting.

This Ordinance can play a crucial role in maintaining open and honest communication among all community leaders, and seems only increasingly important as our current federal administration attempts to turn more and more of our public sector jobs over to private sector decision-making that will happen above and beyond the purviews of any of our local law enforcement or government agencies.

I hope our local police leaders can see this Ordinance as an urgently needed safety component for working with tools that we neither design nor control. And safety both for community members and police and government workers alike--we all need this Ordinance.

Thank you, council, for continuing your discussion of this Ordinance. I sincerely hope you continue to take steps to pass a version of this Ordinance so very needed in the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Lilah Leopold