
DATE: Monday, December 16, 2024
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council Committee of the Whole of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, December 16, 2024, at 7:00p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; 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: Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Seok Hyun Cho, Carla Boyd, Carol Mitten, Will Kolschowsky, Matt Roeschley, Tim Cowan

OTHERS PRESENT: Pete Resnick, Board Member of the Urbana Human Relations Commission

Chair: *Chaundra Bishop, Ward 5*

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Bishop called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:00p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

a. 11-18-2024 Committee of the Whole Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

Mayor Marlin requested the addition of a Discussion item regarding a Draft Alternative Response Task Force Request for Proposals (RFP). Council unanimously voiced approval for the addition of the item.

4. Presentations and Public Input

Ruth Wyman spoke on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Champaign County in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. Stated the ACLU maintains that legally enforceable safeguards such as transparency, oversight, and accountability measures must exist to protect civil rights before surveillance technology is deployed. Stated there should be a public input process before the funding, acquisition, use, or sharing of data from police technologies. Further stated data reporting

measures must be in place to empower City Council and the public to be able to verify that civil rights safeguards have been followed due to the technology's threat to everyone's privacy. Stated the Ordinance is to protect the civil liberties of all residents while also keeping them safe. **Euphoria Rising** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. Noted Council oversight on surveillance technologies will help in combatting islamophobia as well. Commended the effort to protect those traveling from out of state for abortions, asylum seekers, people participating in peaceful protest, and those who are under threat for additional surveillance due to their demographic, highlighting the intersectional issues regarding policing. Stated the Ordinance seeks to address the disparate impacts that indiscriminate use of surveillance technologies has on marginalized and politically active communities. Noted how police surveillance technologies can be traced back to their development and use in the repression of Palestinian people through apartheid and genocide. Stated the Ordinance recognizes the potential for harm onto communities through surveillance technologies and the Council approval process will ensure that steps will be taken to mitigate harm. Stated the Ordinance reinforces civil rights and liberties protected under the 1st, 4th, and 14th Amendments to the Constitution. **Bram Osterhout** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, welcoming a measure introducing democratic oversight on policing and surveillance technology. Emphasized the importance of the Ordinance considering insecurity of digital data and the incoming Trump administration that is openly hostile to many members within the local community. Hoped for City Council to approve the Ordinance and put forward more measures making public safety a more democratic process. **Mark Devlin** criticized CM Evan's critique of Urbana police officers for wearing their patrol uniforms during the Shop with a Cop event, noting that CM Evans did not acknowledge the officers' charity. Stated purchasing a "soft uniform" for police officers would be a misuse of funds given the conditions of the budget. Defended the use of bulletproof vests, providing recent examples of police officers responding to gun violence in the States of Florida and Wisconsin. Stated his students at Parkland College look forward to meeting police officers and learn about the equipment they use. Hoped for CM Evans to appear on WDWS to speak on his opinions regarding policing. **Brian Dolinar** stated he had a productive conversation with Police Chief Boone regarding the potential for Immigrations and Customs Enforcements (ICE) raids in the City of Urbana and he appreciated Police Chief Boone attending the regular meeting of the Champaign-Urbana Immigration Forum last week. Stated he previously covered the previous use of drone surveillance by Champaign County Sheriff Dan Walsh in 2012, the Sheriff Department's acquisition of a Mine-Resistant Armor-Protected vehicle (MRAP) in 2014, and the recent felony mob charges against 9 local activists. Stated the cases against the 9 non-violent activists justify local concern as the police reports display the multiple surveillance tactics and technologies used to identify those activists including footage from Urbana City Council meetings. **Tony Alegretti** echoed previous statements, urging Council to exercise its power to ensure transparency and oversight regarding police technology and act as a standard checks and balances to the Executive department. Stated without oversight, the technologies will lead to dragnet surveillance of the community and target vulnerable communities within the City of Urbana. Stated the data collected can be hacked with many instances of this occurring recently despite companies assuring customers of data safety. Stated the data collected can be abused at every level, can lead to wrongful decisions made on inaccurate data, and lead to lawsuits for the City to handle. Asked for the City to consider the background of data collection companies they choose to partner with and who they may have ties to. Stated if the technology currently utilized by the Urbana Police Department (UPD) is crucial and necessary, it will be easy to justify their use before Council. **Sam Ellinger** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, stating many government technology projects fail due to lack of oversight, discussion, and research done on the companies which government entities choose to work with. Stated data security is difficult for a small city such as Urbana due to our restricted buying power compared to larger cities. Emphasized the Ordinance does not prohibit use of technology, but it provides an avenue for discussion on responsible use of technology as many residents share a desire for transparency regarding the increasing UPD budget. **Bill Colbrook** voiced opposition to Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, stating it restricts the daily operations of the UPD through Council micromanagement and is an overreach of Council's authority. Stated from input received from Ward 6 indicate the Ordinance does not represent their views for public safety nor the City of Urbana's. Stated the

technologies utilized by UPD are similar to other police departments across the nation. Stated the citation of the 10 Shared Principles to support the Ordinance does not align with the intent of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP), citing his personal experience of participating in the roundtables for developing the 10 Shared Principles. Questioned the authenticity of statements in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding the potential for the federal government to access digital data to prosecute out-of-state abortion seekers, residents without legal immigration status, and citizens participating in protests. **Bav Nadeem** stated technology without oversight is guaranteed to harm the community as tech companies prioritize profit-seeking over ethics. Stated technology only has positive, transformative power when in the hands of community, sharing an example from Mexico where a group of women collected location data regarding missing persons with the goal of reuniting families and had put the ownership of the data into the hands of the families of the missing persons. Stated democratic control and community-centered practices of data and technology is necessary in protecting the rights of people. Spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 as it allows the public, who are well informed, to have input on the utilization of technology. **Karen Medina** stated in April of 2024, local police departments infringed upon the First Amendment rights of peaceful demonstrators with their use of surveillance technology and the resulting felony charges from that day have destroyed livelihoods. Stated the law in Illinois bars police departments from using surveillance technology to monitor political protests, marches, demonstrations, and any form of assembly protected by the First Amendment. Stated the police misuse technology, ignore Illinois laws and policies, and will not willingly limit their use of technology. Questioned the extent of the misuse of technology by the police department in private, without the scrutiny of the public. Demanded oversight on the UPD's use of technology for at least five years to affirm the City of Urbana's commitment to being a Sanctuary City in the face of the incoming presidency and further commit to protecting undocumented residents. Stated the City must get binding commitments from the vendors to not use the data in any capacity outside of the City's control. **Mark Enslin** stated a friend who lives in Urbana was fined by the State of Florida for an unpaid toll-fee caught by an automated license plate reader despite having never been to Florida, bringing into question the effectiveness of technologies such as those. Stated public servants should have the resources they need, and they would also ideally have oversight from elected officials and the public to ensure their commitment to the public. Stated surveillance technologies are rapidly developing and have been intentionally and unintentionally been abused by people with good intentions. Voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 as those who advocate for the use of surveillance technology should also support sufficient community oversight to ensure it is being used to the benefit of the community. **Anita Chan** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 as it is a commonsense approach to promoting transparency and protecting civil rights while balancing the utilization of new technologies for public safety. Stated many cities have procured surveillance technologies in a nontransparent way without any input from the public or from any elected officials, circumventing due process while introducing methods in which civil liberties can be infringed and creating an oppressive environment for marginalized communities. Stated the Ordinance seeks to protect people from abuses of power, reaffirm the City of Urbana's commitment to good governance and principles. Provided examples of jurisdictions that have banned automated license plate readers or required approval from their City Councils for acquisition of surveillance technologies. Shared how surveillance data has historically been used to harm marginalized communities in the name of public safety. **Steven MacGuire** voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 as it enables checks to authority needed for the incoming presidential administration that has already declared its intent to persecute its political enemies with no respect to democratic norms or the law. Shared recent news of how an individual attempted to collect addresses and names of transgender people in the State of Texas and a sheriff in the State of Michigan had created a list of people who had displayed Harris-Walz lawn signs. Questioned how the police can be held accountable when there is an administration that does not respect norms and laws of the United States. Expressed a need for legal avenues to hold people in positions of power accountable and the Ordinance is a way to hold UPD accountable for any potential wrongful use of surveillance technology. Stated widely adopted technologies should be easy to provide justification for to Council. **Paul Mewth** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042.

Stated the 10 Shared Principles do not refer to the use or regulation of surveillance technologies. Shared the City of Chicago was sold ShotSpotter to detect gunfire, but the technology completely failed. Stated the New York branches of the NAACP and ACLU both advocated against the use of automated license plate readers as they are inaccurate and capable of being exploited. Asked for an explanation regarding a \$4,000 expenditure for Cellebrite in 2019 and what the technology is being used for. **Elizabeth Sotiropoulos** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 as it places checks and balances on the surveillance technology used by UPD. Expressed a need for these checks as the country is descending into fascism and the current state of mass surveillance threatens marginalized communities. Stated the community is requesting for Council to push back against increasing surveillance to protect the civil liberties of residents and raise awareness on how their data is being tracked and stored. Stated many examples exist of police officers unethically collecting data to be used against people who participated in protests, sought reproductive healthcare, live in the country without documentation, or who are homeless. **Sana Saboowala** voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, citing the harmful oversurveillance of Muslim communities since 9/11. Stated despite the largest domestic terror threat being white supremacist groups, government surveillance is primarily used against Black and Brown people. Stated the Ordinance acts as a layer of protection against the oversurveillance of Black and Brown communities while also reaffirming UPD's commitment to accountability and transparency to the local community. Expressed the Ordinance further provides space for local experts and those with lived experience surrounding surveillance to have their voices heard. Raised concerns regarding the \$10,000 in funds spent toward Cellebrite and the procurement of Israeli surveillance technologies due to their history of being utilized by corrupt regimes to target journalists, activists, and LGBTQ worldwide. **Terry von Thaden** stated Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 is too broad and spoke in support of revising it before passing it. Stated the court system exists to ensure oversight on the use of technologies, protect civil liberties, and regulate policing. Shared that her son was killed in October 2021 and the City of Champaign was only able to apprehend the shooter through automated license plate readers and cellphone accessing technology. **Danielle Chynoweth** spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, citing her previous experience as the former Organizing Director at the Center for Media Justice where she advocated for harm-reduction policies for low-income residents regarding media and technology. Stated the Ordinance provides an avenue for democratic review for surveillance technologies while also informing the public of their usage. Noted the Illinois ACLU have reviewed the Ordinance, and it aligns with recommendations from national leaders on media and technology justice, as per the Community Control Over Police Surveillance Guiding Principles document included in the packet. Emphasized the necessity of democratic oversight for technology, sharing examples of how it can disrupt lives and how the data can be taken from the hands of the UPD. Stated the data has previously been used by ICE to persecute residents of Urbana. Proposed the City of Champaign disable their automated license plate readers due to the threat the incoming Presidential administration poses to local communities. **Autumn Soliman** stated one of Urbana's greatest aspects is the diversity in its community and many immigrant families have personal experiences of being persecuted through government surveillance. Spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 to affirm the City of Urbana's commitment to being a Sanctuary City. Stated minority communities often face the highest risk to their safety from law enforcement and the government. Encouraged Council to approve the Ordinance to maintain accountability, public input, and public control over surveillance technologies in the community. **Annie Adams** stated Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 creates a review process for surveillance technologies equivalent to modern cell phones and will bring regularly used databases into review by Council. Stated further investments into police technology, similar to what has been done in the City of Champaign, will increase efficiency and the effectiveness of the UPD. Shared her personal experiences of being nearly killed and victim to crime, stating it would be irresponsible to not utilize technology to assist people currently experiencing similar scenarios. Stated the acquisition of technology is essential to hiring and retaining police officers, pointing to their high workload, the seven officers that have left the department in the past five months, and that three to four officers are on a shift at any given time. Requested Council send the Ordinance to City Staff for review if they choose to continue consideration of the item. **Jane McClintock** voiced support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 as it is a commonsense measure. Stated

the Ordinance provides the public an opportunity to have input on police technology while also providing transparency on how the technology will be used. Stated the Ordinance will ensure technologies will be utilized to provide the greatest benefit to the community, protect civil liberties, and make sure funds are being spent in their best way. Expressed the Ordinance will work to improve trust between the community and the UPD through engaging the community. Thanked City Staff for developing the RFP for continuing the Alternative Response Task Force and encouraged the consideration for clarifying the language so the consultant directly sends drafts and reports to the task force rather than going to another party before being first reviewed by the task force.

Written Public Input requesting reform to the Human Relations Commission investigation process was received from the following individual and read by CM Wilken: Melinda Carr.

Written Public Input in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 were received from the following individuals and read by Council: Laura Haber, Laura Pensel, Olly Greer, Bishop King James & Dr. Evelyn Underwood, DeShawn Williams, Don Owen, Lilah Leopold, Daniel Folger, Esther Patt, David Cisneros, Dua Aldasouqi, Sharon Irish, and Deborah Hollenberg.

Written Public Input in criticism of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 was received from the following individual and read by CM Quisenberry: Larry Lister.

Written Public Input calling for a public apology and resignation from Police Chief Boone was received from the following individual and read by CM Wilken: Christopher Zelle.

Written Public Input in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 were received from the following individuals, but not read: Joanne Budde, Julie Laut, Carol Spindel, Margaret Miller, Joycelyn Landrum-Brown, Bren Larcom, Jenny Forster, Julie Watkins, George Vassilatos, Luke Lee, Hildegard Luijten, Sarah Roper, Berry Zhang, Adam Nichols, Izzy Scott, and Stuart Levy.

Written Public Input in criticism of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 were received from the following individuals, but not read: Annie Adams, Bill Colbrook, and Giovanna Dibenedetto.

5. Staff Report

Mayor Marlin reported the Special Census has been completed as of Friday, December 13 and results are expected to be released by the middle of March 2025. Thanked everyone who participated in the Census. Shared the City has converted to using Microsoft 365 internally and thanked the Information Technology (IT) Staff for their work. Stated the new City of Urbana website has been launched as of Friday, December 13 and thanked the City Staff who have worked on this project going two years. Shared the Alternative Response Task Force RFP Draft will be presented to Council later this meeting and are hoping to release the RFP by the first day of 2025.

6. New Business

- a. **Ordinance No. 2024-12-042:** An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Policing Surveillance Technology and Databases – CM's Wilken and Kolisetty

Presented by CM Wilken. The Ordinance requires and clarifies the process for procurement and use of policing technology and databases that can be used to monitor, track, and identify specific individuals or groups. The Ordinance codifies the public approval process for specific surveillance technologies or databases; it does not dictate the use of any given technology (that would be voted on by Council). CM Wilken stated the Ordinance introduces a Council majority approval process, a 45-day public input period, use policy,

and annual report on use for each existing, purchased, or implemented policing technology with a 180-day period for the UPD to provide information on existing technologies. Stated a clause is present to prevent the sale of data for monetary gain by the City and states no contracts would supersede the Ordinance. Stated an attachment is provided in the packet that lists relevant and non-applicable technologies and databases in addition to outlining the minimum requirements for a use report. Spoke on the background behind the origin of the Ordinance and ongoing Council discussions on the use of policing technology since the 2021 consideration of automated license plate readers. Stated the purpose of the Ordinance is to codify and affirm the understanding between the Mayor, Council, and the public that began with requiring a Council majority to adopt automated license plate readers. Further stated the Ordinance seeks to set a public approval process, not dictating the use of specific equipment or technologies. Emphasized the importance of this process for new technologies as various municipalities such as the City of Norfolk, Virginia are contending with lawsuits regarding the violation of privacy rights by automated license plate readers. Stated the extension of the review to existing technologies was recommended by the ACLU and other legislation that the Ordinance was modeled after, noting it would be of value to be able to communicate with residents on what current technologies are being used. Stated the Ordinance would provide a safeguard for residents while also adding a layer of protection for the City against lawsuits. Noted the preliminary review for the Ordinance has been conducted by the Illinois State ACLU's legal review team; Attorney Tony Allegretti, Interim Chair of the Civilian Police Review Board; Anita Chan, Associate Professor of the School of Information Sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; and other experts. Welcomed further constructive input from the City's Legal Department, UPD, Council, and the public. Stated the Ordinance was emailed to the Mayor, Council, City Attorney Matthew Roeschley, and Police Chief Larry Boone on Tuesday December 10 with no feedback yet received. Questions and discussion followed.

~~Motion to approve to the regular agenda by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty.~~
Questions and discussion ensued.

Amended motion to keep in Committee of the Whole by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Roll Call Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- b. Ordinance No. 2024-12-043:** An Ordinance Amending Urbana City Code Chapter 12 (Human Rights Ordinance – Changing the Name of the Human Relations Commission) – HREO

Presented by Carla Boyd, Human Rights & Equity Officer and Pete Resnick, Board Member of the Urbana Human Relations Commission. The Ordinance formally changes the name of the Human Relations Commission to the Human Rights Commission in Chapter 12 of Urbana City Code (Human Rights Ordinance). Carla Boyd provided background on the proposed changes to the Human Rights Ordinance and introduced Pete Resnick. Pete Resnick introduced himself as the longest serving member on the Human Relations Commission and stated he will later speak on the proposed changes. Carla Boyd stated in October 2021, the Human Relations Commission voted to change the name to align with the title of the Human Rights and Equity office and the proposal is now being brought before Council after thorough review. Stated the updates include changes to the language to make the Human Rights Ordinance more gender neutral and aligned with the City's policies. Stated the name of the Commission has often been confused with the Human

Resources department and the update should help clarify its duties to the public. Pete Resnick stated most bodies conducting similar work to the Commission refer to themselves as “Human Rights” rather than “Human Relations”.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Wilken. Discussion followed.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

- c. Resolution No. 2024-12-086R:** A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement for the Donation of Land to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District – Exec

Presented by Carol Mitten, City Administrator. The Resolution conveys a vacant parcel of real estate at 2310B E. Main Street owned by the City to the Forest Preserve District for the extension of its Kickapoo Rail Trail project. Carol Mitten provided background on the Resolution and the donation of land to the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. Stated the parcel of land was originally purchased with the intent to donate it to the Kickapoo Rail Trail. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion to approve to the consent agenda by CM Wu, seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice Vote:

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

NAY: None.

7. Discussion

- a. Continued ARPA Reallocation – Exec**

Presented by Will Kolschowsky, Senior Management Analyst & Assistant to the City Administrator. Will Kolschowsky continued previous discussions regarding ARPA funds restating the Council direction provided to direct the \$310,037 in unobligated ARPA funds to fund Social Services through a second round of the Housing & Homeless Innovations Grants Program (HHI) and resuming the unfinished question of how to spend the \$300,000 to \$500,000 of expected unspent funds from the Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining Project. Provided an overview on what the guidelines are for obligating funds and the difference between supplementing and supplanting funds. Stated if an ARPA project fails to spend all its funds the funds can be moved to another ARPA eligible expense, or another project obligated before 12/31/2024 to spend before they expire at the end of 2026. Stated Council previously considered to the reallocate the \$300,000 of expected unspent funds to a second neighborhood facing similar issues, create/expand a lateral lining program, or put it toward other Equity and Quality of Life projects (EQL). Shared a draft for a project centered around EQL investments and stated it provided flexibility in how the ARPA funds can be used. Asked if there are any further details or items Council would like to discuss or include in the obligation process.

Council asked for further clarification regarding the expiration of the funds, when the funds need to be obligated, and how long existing programs must spend their funds before they can be reallocated. Will Kolschowsky stated projects will proceed until it is known for certain that a project's funds could not be spent and then it is able to be reobligated. Stated if the funds are reallocated to EQL investments, it can fund later EQL projects that may

have begun after the 12/31/2024 obligation deadline.

CM Hursey voiced a preference for further EQL investments into Ward 3 such as flashing stop signs and other infrastructure to improve lighting in the area with the unspent Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining Project funds.

CM Evans considered the idea of using the unspent Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining Project funds toward a specific project in similar areas.

CM's Kolisetty, Wu, and Wilken voiced support for the proposed EQL investments project and the flexibility it provides in allowing for other options for projects to be funded with the money rather than solely lateral lining.

Council reached consensus on the approving the proposal put forward for the EQL investments project.

b. Draft Alternative Response Task Force RFP – Exec

Council voiced difficulties in accessing emails after the system change to Microsoft 365 and stated some have not been able to review the Draft Alternative Response Task Force RFP that was sent out earlier in the week.

Chair Bishop asked if it was still the intent to release the RFP on the beginning of January 2025. Will Kolschowsky clarified those dates were placeholders and can still be changed.

CM Kolisetty expressed a desire to see one of the original intents of this project, a review of existing alternative response models, to be included.

Council requested more time to further review the document.

CM Wilken asked for clarification on the RFP review process and if volunteers from Council would be required. Will Kolschowsky stated the RFP review will take place over two to three weeks before scoring and interviewing candidates. Stated Chair Bishop had previously volunteered to be on the review committee and another Councilmember would be required. CM Wilken volunteered to participate in the review committee.

Mayor Marlin stated a text was sent by the IT Department containing a link to access the new webmail website.

Chair Bishop stated a continuation of this discussion will be placed on the next meeting agenda to discuss updates.

8. Council Input and Communications

CM Kolisetty expressed thanks to Kate Levy, Executive Coordinator and Linda Trevena, Computer Systems Technician for assisting in accessing her email after the IT Department's Help Desk was closed. *CM Wilken* asked for clarification on when the next expected Council meeting would be. *City Administrator Carol Mitten* clarified the next City Council meeting is rescheduled to be on January 6th, 2025 followed immediately by the regular Committee of the Whole meeting on the same day. *CM Quisenberry* thanked Thomas Webb, IT Manager for his assistance in accessing his email.

9. Adjournment

With no further business before the committee of the whole Chair Bishop adjourned the meeting at

10:16 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 2/10/25

Rafael Cho

From: Melinda Carr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 5:01 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Jackie Curry; Evelyn Underwood; Debbi Roberts; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Melinda Carr; Richard Painter
Subject: "PUBLIC INPUT" FOR DECEMBER 16, 2024, PLEASE READ INTO THE RECORD

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

December 16, 2024

Dear Mayor Marlin and the Urbana City Council Committee of the Whole:

The following information is not a replacement for the seven pages submitted by Melinda Carr on November 25, 2024, in response to Agenda Item D.3 Human Relations Report Pursuant to City Code Chapter 12 Section 12-22 (g). This is an Executive Summary because the mayor chose not to read the previous request, as done in past practice, but she noted the correspondence would be included in the public record. *(Tonight's proposed agenda item (F. 2.) will change the name to the Human Rights Commission).*

Executive Summary

Inequitable Treatment in the Human Relations Commission Investigation Process

The Residents of Carver Park and surrounding neighborhoods of Urbana and Champaign—a historically African American community—submitted a formal complaint to the Urbana Human Relations Commission on August 20, 2024. Despite the intent to address pressing inequities, the complainants faced significant procedural and investigative disparities throughout the process.

Key Concerns

1. Lack of Representation and Engagement:

- **Initial Complaint and Testimonies:** The complaint included 16 named complainants, supported by public testimonies from residents, such as Melinda Carr (spokesperson) and others, voicing concerns about the adverse impacts of the Hope Village project.

- **Exclusion of Witnesses:** Key contributors, such as Robert Lewis (proposing an alternative site design), were not consulted, and their input was omitted from the final report.

2. Procedural Flaws and Lack of Equity:

- **Inadequate Notification:** Residents reported inconsistent and insufficient notification of meetings, decisions and inaccurate records of notification.

- **Lack of Access to the Final Report:** The complainants were denied the opportunity to review the final report before it was presented to the City Council.

- **Bias in Decision-Making:** During the November 19, 2024, public meeting, a late-arriving commissioner who had not reviewed the report was allowed to vote, significantly impacting the outcome.

3. Unaddressed Community Concerns:

- **Traffic and Safety Risks:** The access road (Carver Drive) was selected in lieu of Federal Drive (via by right), which was previously rejected by a traffic study done in 2018 eliminating Carver Drive as an access road to that site. Unfortunately, the access point selected drew attention to the detention basin which by code could not be fenced in and posed a hazard to the children and other potential disasters.

- **Ignored Alternative Proposal:** A community-proposed alternative design addressing these risks was summarily dismissed without thorough evaluation.

4. Legal and Ethical Violations:

- **Ordinance Noncompliance:** The project disregarded local ordinances designed to protect neighboring residents from adverse impacts.

- **Alleged Legal Oppression:** The complainants described the process as “legal oppression,” citing procedural manipulation and neglect of African American voices in decision-making.

Findings of Fact

1. Unacknowledged Community Proposal:

- The alternative design presented by Robert Lewis to the Plan Commission was excluded from final considerations.

2. Discrepancies in Notifications:

- Residents identified conflicting records of notification recipients, including deceased individuals and incomplete mailing lists as it relates to Champaign and Urbana.

3. Disparities in the Process:

- Meetings were inconsistently scheduled, with at least one meeting canceled without proper notice; and a lack of disclosure of possible sites.

Community Requests

1. Based on Urbana City Council protocols, it takes two or more Alderpersons to request that an item be placed on the agenda. We are asking two Alderpersons to request this item be placed on the agenda for discussion in January 2025.
2. Amend Urbana City Code Chapter 12 – Human Rights, Section 12-22 (g) to ensure equitable investigation processes, timely notifications, and inclusion of all relevant testimony and documentation be upheld.

The investigation and subsequent report by the Urbana Human Relations Commission is flawed in that it failed to meet the standards of equity, transparency, and thoroughness. The complainants urge the Urbana City Council to reject the current report and request due diligence in the execution of a fair process that genuinely considers the voices and needs of all affected residents.

Respectfully,

Melinda Carr

On behalf of Residents of Carver Park and Surrounding Neighborhoods Who Signed the Complaint

Rafael Cho

From: L H <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:40 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Re: Support for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

You have my permission to read the email below at the council meeting.

Thanks!
-Laura Haber

On Mon, Dec 16, 2024 at 2:29 PM L H <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Dear Council Members,

My name is Laura Haber and I live at [REDACTED] in Urbana. I support the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. I believe that it is incumbent upon our elected officials, in consultation with their constituents, to determine which surveillance technologies will be purchased and how they will be used by the police. We live in a time of increasing power of the state to infringe on civil liberties in the name of public safety with sometimes dire, often unintended, consequences. This ordinance will allow us to make thoughtful, informed decisions about which measures will be taken by our police department, with due consideration of how our information may be used outside of our jurisdiction.

Thank you for your service to the community.

-Laura Haber

Rafael Cho

From: Laura Pensel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:45 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input 12.16 - Support for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Laura Pensel and I am a Urbana resident and local healthcare worker. I support the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. Transparency is vital to keep our community safe and with emerging technology it is key to have checks and balances within our government. Voting yes on this ordinance ensures this. I encourage everyone to pass this.

Regards,

Laura Pensel

Rafael Cho

From: Olly Greer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 11:47 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Public input for police surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Olly Greer and I am a CU resident and substitute teacher in the district. I support the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. As the technology around surveillance advances, accountability and transparency through this ordinance helps us build a safer community. I would further add that we need less money for cops and more money for community and schools. We are in a huge teacher shortage yet I see billboards around town asking for more cops to sign on with a 10,000 dollar bonus. Where is the money for teachers and schools? I know these budgets are separate but I urge you to think about where we are pouring money and what we value as a community. This is Urbana Champaign, we don't need super surveillance...we need more teachers and resources for our youth who are struggling.

Thank you
Olly

Rafael Cho

From: Evelyn Underwood <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:13 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input, 12/16/2024: Please Read Into The Record

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana Mayor and City Council,

Re: Very Timely Proposed Ordinance

Because of the increase use of high-level technology in our economy society, it is time for our elected government officials in The City of Urbana to put in place constraints! We elected you. You represent us. We depend on you to look out for the public safety which includes oversight of policies, procedures, and processes; especially our police department as well as other departments as may deem appropriate. With collaboration with entities through out, (locally, county wide, state wide, nationally) the Urbana Council and Mayor are and should be the accountable and responsible body!

Thank you 😊!!!

Bishop King James and Reverend Dr. Evelyn Underwood

Rafael Cho

From: DeShawn Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 3:39 PM
To: City Council
Cc: City Council
Subject: Public input -Please read my email aloud.

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening council,

I would like my email read aloud and into the record.

I am writing to urge all of you to approve the transparency bill in front of you today. It's important for our police department to evolve with the times, and I encourage them to do so. But that cannot be done appropriately without community buy in. As technology develops and new services are becoming available, our residents must have a seat at the table. This bill would ensure that any of the significant changes our city's law enforcement may face in the future are either implemented collaboratively, or reworked to fit our entire city's needs. We have a great example to follow on this issue. The residents of our sister city, Champaign, are provided with a bi-annual report of all police technology statistics - they're also required to present requests to the city council prior to any decision being made. That approach has resulted in transparency, and that cultivates enhanced trust among the public and makes accountability for police possible. That's the kind of government that earns trust and respect from those we serve. Our residents are smart, they know what works best for them and their families, and they have a right to be informed - and speak in favor or in opposition of - the kinds of technological changes the police may pursue. I want everyone in Urbana to have that right, and I urge all of you to ensure they get it. Please vote for the transparency and collaboration this bill makes possible. Thank you all!

Best Regards,

DeShawn Williams
Champaign County Democrats, Vice-Chair
Cunningham 15, Precinct Committeeman
Candidate for Urbana Mayor

Rafael Cho

From: Don Owen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:36 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - December 16, 2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING - PLEASE READ THIS COMMENT INTO THE PUBLIC RECORD!

Mayor Marlin and Members of City Council:

I am urging you to vote yes on the proposed resolution that would require to approve any purchased by the Urbana Police Department related to surveillance technology. This is a very simply matter of oversight and accountability. You, as elected members of our local government are obligated to protect citizens, residents, and visitors from over reach by any branch or department of your local government.

We know that surveillance technologies are disproportionately placed in Black, Brown, and low income neighborhoods. That hyper surveillance leads to over-policing and racial targeting by law enforcement.

I have lived in this community for over 35 years, and I served Urbana in USD116 for most of that time. Urbana has not seen a dramatic rise in crime. You, as members of City Council, have a duty to this community to ensure that it is safe for all people. By allowing the Police Department to purchase high tech surveillance equipment without any checks or balances, you are essentially giving the police the right to spy on the people of Urbana.

Please do not allow police surveillance technologies to become more important than the people you serve. Please vote in favor of the ordinance that requires City Council approval before any such purchase.

Sincerely,
Don

Don Owen (they/he)
Educational Equity, Excellence, Engagement, and Leadership
[REDACTED]

Follow me in Instagram: [@ddo_photo](#)
Connect on LinkedIn: [Donald Owen](#)

Rafael Cho

From: Lilah Leopold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:08 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT 12-16-2024

***** 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 would greatly appreciate your reading my comment below aloud at tonight's meeting:

I, Lilah Leopold (Ward 4), write **in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042**: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Police Surveillance Technology. I offer my heartfelt thanks to council members who have put forward this ordinance and all those who are taking seriously the use of existing and future surveillance tools in our community.

I urge all members of the council to seriously consider and support this ordinance, and hope that the Urbana Police Department will see this not as a personal review of any particular member of our police community, but an important, studied recognition of what it means to use these tools at all. These are tools which are never fully in the control of those who use them; I am sure many other members of the community will speak to the specifics of how the data such tools generate will never fully be under our control, nor fully under the control of any one police force.

Urbana has a diverse community in any manner of categories—race and ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, citizenship status are only a few; our community is worth protecting at all levels—from physical violence to digital privacy. Data travels far beyond the confines of Urbana city limits with the all-too-frequent potential to cause very real harm and damage, both within and beyond city limits. Especially in a politically polarized era, no community deserves to be a guinea pig for large-scale surveillance without cooperative oversight or meaningful legislation.

It is therefore of the utmost importance to carve space through Ordinance No. 2014-12-042 for continued consideration of if, when, and how such tools enter our community. This is a reasonable and responsible action that needs to accompany the use of technology which will never be neutral nor devoted to any one single intended use.

Ordinance No. 2014-12-042 would only help further a climate of transparency and safety among law enforcement and the community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lilah Leopold (Ward 4)

Rafael Cho

From: Daniel Folger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 5:57 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input 12.16 - Support for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

I hope you are all having a good holiday season. Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Daniel Folger and I am a Champaign-Urbana resident. I support the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. As the Champaign-Urbana Muslim Action Committee has pointed out, residents deserve to know before indiscriminate surveillance becomes normalized in our city.

Perhaps this may curb frankly infuriating events such as the felony charges leveled on eighteen year-old student protesters, something that seems to me to be a clear message that free speech is conditional on what the message is. I couldn't have been more inspired by the action taken by UIUC students and professors to stand up against extreme violence, apartheid and genocide, and believe that individuals who are willing to do so should be protected by the law, not targeted by it.

All of this to say that it is a great ordinance, and I am glad to see it proposed.

Have a great evening,
-Daniel Folger

Rafael Cho

From: Esther Patt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 6:45 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - December 16, 2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this message publicly.

Dear Mayor Marlin and Urbana City Council Members,

I write in support of the proposed ordinance establishing policies and reporting requirements for purchase and use of police surveillance technology. Written policies go a long way to provide the public with some assurance that surveillance of the public will not be abused. There is consensus in Urbana and across the nation that police operate with too little accountability to the public or even to city councils and mayors. I believe strongly that if license plate readers would really help fight crime, the police chief and city council should work together to develop reasonable policies. Please do not dismiss the idea of accountability as being too burdensome. It is necessary.

Thank you for your service,
Esther Patt
Urbana

Rafael Cho

From: Josue David Cisneros <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 12:23 PM
To: City Council; Jaya Kolisetty
Subject: READ ALOUD - Public Comment 12/16 City Council

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council members and mayor,

Hello. My name is David Cisneros. I am a resident of Ward 4. I cannot attend the meeting today, so thank you for the opportunity to have my comments read aloud and into the record.

I ask the city council to vote "yes" on Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Police Surveillance Technology. This is an important policy that will establish democratic oversight on any surveillance technology that the city seeks to acquire in the future. As other commentators have probably already mentioned, this is crucial to protect the rights of Urbana residents by providing both transparency and accountability. The residents of Urbana should be informed about and be able to weigh in on any potential use of these mass surveillance technologies, and our elected representatives in the City Council should be able to exercise this oversight on behalf of Urbana residents. This is even more important given the incoming presidential administration [explicitly promises to use state and local surveillance technology to persecute vulnerable communities](#).

I want to address the two main arguments in opposition to this policy that I have read in the local news.

First, I have read the mayor express concern that this policy did not originate from or have pre-approval from the city staff and legal department. However, this policy has an established legal and governmental precedent. Community Control over Police Surveillance policies have been vetted and endorsed by many national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organizations like the ACLU, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Restore the Fourth and many others. In addition, [dozens of localities have passed similar ordinances](#), including Columbia, MO and Oak Park, IL. The [mayor explicitly stated last year that automated license plate readers and other surveillance technologies should have to be approved by City Council](#), so there should be no concern with establishing that as an explicit and enforceable policy. City staff can continue to weigh in on the implementation of the ordinance, but our City Council has the duty and authority to create policies for the residents of Urbana, and this is clearly a proposal with widespread support.

Second, I have read the police chief state that this policy would be an overreach. I have to fundamentally disagree that democratic oversight of policing is an overreach. In particular, I am concerned with the comment in the news that automated license plate readers "basic technologies" that should be implemented without approval. There is extensive reporting and research about the dangers of ALPRs caused by misuse, overreach, and just plain errors. A simple Google search will provide literally dozens of news reports and policy briefs about the problems with ALPRs. This same City Council heard presentations about this last year, and you previously rejected the implementation of ALPRs. This discussion proves the necessity for an ordinance to provide transparency, oversight, and approval to any future implementation of such major surveillance technologies.

I urge the council to vote "yes" on Ordinance 2024-12-042 and to go further by continuing to prioritize the plans for an alternative response program, to reform the CPRB to provide it real teeth, and continuing to provide funds for addressing the root causes of social unrest. Thank you for reading my comment, and thanks for your service.

Rafael Cho

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:59 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12.16 - Pass the Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Dua Aldasouqi, I am a CU resident. I am a member of the CU Muslim Action Committee. We released a statement in support of the proposed ordinance (included below) but wanted to also reaffirm our support for said ordinance via public input and email. The direction our country is headed in when it comes to police power and surveillance is quite honestly frightening. As a Muslim who remembers and experienced the discriminatory post 9.11 surveillance and abuse of power by authorities of our community, I ask council to vote yes on this. Checks and balances create stronger systems and safer communities.

Please vote yes on this ordinance and provide us with a layer of protections against surveillance.

Statement/Press Release below (please read it out loud as well).

Thank you.

December 13, 2024
CU MAC Supports Ordinance on Police Surveillance

SHARE CU MAC supports the proposed ordinance on police surveillance in Urbana and invites community members to join us at the Urbana City Council meeting Monday, December 16 at 7:00 PM to support the ordinance.

URBANA, IL—CU Muslim Action Committee (CU MAC) welcomes new ordinance on police surveillance: “Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Policing Surveillance Technology and Databases”. This ordinance would require the Urbana Police Department to seek City Council approval before it can purchase and use surveillance technologies. It allows for a layer of protection for Urbana residents.

“CU MAC supports this step in keeping police accountable to the public. [Discriminatory, Islamophobic surveillance in the name of counterterrorism](#) is something we have experienced in this country since 9/11. [This policy would](#) ensure that the City Council can serve as a check on these technologies, while allowing for transparency and public input around police surveillance in the city” says Sana Saboowala, CU MAC member.

Israeli digital forensics technology, Cellebrite, is already being used against local residents ([CU MAC statement on Cellebrite](#)). Residents deserve to know and have official approval before indiscriminate surveillance becomes normalized in our city. CU MAC commends Alderpersons Wilken and Kolisetty’s commitment to transparency and advocacy for their community. As the technology around surveillance advances, accountability and transparency through this ordinance helps us build a safer community.

CU MAC encourages the community to join us at the Urbana City Council meeting on Monday 12/16 at 7:00 PM (400 S. Vine St., Urbana) to support this bill and the city council members working to create policies that protect our privacy and hold the police accountable.



Rafael Cho

From: Sharon Irish <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 8:25 AM
To: City Council
Subject: support Ordinance No. 2024-12-042

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this message into the record.

Dear Council Members,

I am unable to be present at the meeting tonight so I wanted to express my support for the draft ordinance No. 2024-12-042 that would require approval by the Council for purchase, use and reporting of police surveillance technology. I appreciate the hard work and careful thought that went into drafting this document; I understand as a draft it may change in some particulars.

The key issue, though, is that the city council and the public whom it serves must have the time and capacity to review and approve any purchase of surveillance technology and, if purchased, how that technology is deployed. It is crucial that any data collected be secured and used responsibly as outlined in a use policy. In the last round of this discussion about license plate readers, I believe that a third party would have managed the data, a party over which we had little control.

Given the potential for misuse and/or overreach with these surveillance technologies it is essential that we the public have opportunities to ask questions, make comments and consent to their use and relevant constraints, if the technology is indeed used.

Thanks for your consideration,

Sharon Irish

[REDACTED]

Urbana

Rafael Cho

From: Deborah Hollenberg <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:10 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input 12/16/24 - Support for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Deborah Hollenberg and I have lived in Urbana resident for 10 years. I am writing to state my support for the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. As surveillance technology advances, it is vital that we demand accountability and transparency through measures like this ordinance to help keep our community safe.

Surveillance technology is often used as a tool of oppression under the guise of preventing crime (convenient reminder that Urbana's crime rate is at a historic low). We must thoroughly research any surveillance technology proposed in our city and evaluate the potential harms and benefits that could come from it— who has access to it, what groups will benefit, and who will it harm? We must look out for the most marginalized groups in our community (BIPOC, disabled, economically disadvantaged and unhoused residents), as they are statistically more likely to be victims of police violence, especially in non-criminal encounters. Let us not forget that Police are an institution originally founded to retrieve runaway slaves. Their work is to protect capital and the ruling class agenda, not the community. We, the community, keep us safe.

Thank you.

Rafael Cho

From: Larry Lister <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 1:34 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Larry Lister
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT for Record - Please Read Aloud

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

PUBLIC INPUT RE: [Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Police Surveillance Technology]

I request that this email please be read into the record as I am unable to attend in time for public comment this evening.

Good evening, my name is Larry Lister and I am a candidate for city council representing Urbana Ward 2.

I provide public input tonight regarding the proposed ordinance for increased oversight of police surveillance technology.

This proposed ordinance has major implications on existing public safety operations and calls into question long standing practices that are common in law enforcement nationwide. To my knowledge it has had no prior recent distribution, staff review, legal input, or police department input on the impact it would have. This would appear to require Urbana Police to ask permission from city council for literally every aspect of not only new technologies, but also existing technologies for doing their daily jobs. For example, does this mean that the common use of the Secretary of State database to conduct routine checks on criminal history, outstanding warrants, vehicle registrations and driver's licenses needs to be re-adjudicated and potentially managed by members of the city council?

I also have concerns over the coincidental timing of the release of this Ordinance in the wake of the recent News Gazette article discussing Chief Boone's concerns regarding officer morale and loss of staff that Urbana has experienced. This is in rather stark contrast to Champaign, who reported at the recent Community Coalition meeting successful new officer additions over the past year. I remind city council and my Urbana neighbors that Urbana went to a great deal of time and expense to break precedent of 'hiring from within' and after a national search we selected Chief Boone to come in and change things up based on his experience implementing community policing.

With the above stated, I ask that this ordinance remain in committee and be allowed to undergo the proper review, analysis, and input by the UPD, city staff, legal counsel, the local media, and the public at large. I hope for this in the spirit that daylight is the best disinfectant, and as such that these "new technologies" be fully vetted with actual data from all sources, pro and con, including data and experiences with these technologies in question from the surrounding Central Illinois communities that Urbana residents routinely interact with, travel through, and work within.

Cho, Seok Hyun 'Rafael'

From: Chris Z <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:35 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Fwd: Your continued lies and misinformation

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Christopher Zelle
Urbana-Champaign

Please read the below and as much of the forwarded correspondence found below into the record as time allows at the next city council meeting.

Please find below a forwarded correspondence between myself Chris Zelle and the Urbana Police Chief asking for a public apology and resignation. If he fails to hold himself accountable as per the core values he's supposed to uphold when representing the City's mission please move forward with a firing for cause. Any details to the referenced incidents over the last year can easily be provided from City council recordings or minutes if you desire them.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Chris Z <[REDACTED]>
Date: Thu, Dec 12, 2024, 10:27 AM
Subject: Your continued lies and misinformation
To: <[REDACTED]>

You entered this community with a presentation filled with lies and misinformation. It weaponized math illiteracy to bamboozle the community and falsely represent yourself as having a data driven history of success. I pointed out these issues to you hoping you yourself was unaware and would resolve the issue moving forward. Its now clear it doesn't really matter if you did or did not know at the time as after you were informed you made no moves to redact or repair the misinformation you spread that evening and instead comfortably continued similar behavior through the year eschewing data driven means and blatantly misrepresentating the data when scantily provided. This is a trend of behaviors that makes you grossly unfit for your role.

You're doubling down on this unfitness, this laziness, this gross disrespect for our community, by advocating Urbana City government make critiquing behaviors like yours unacceptable behavior in this community with enforced punishments. What kind of draconian future do you want for this community where you can knowingly spread lies you're never accountable for while embracing punishment and accountability for those critiquing your terrible behavior?

I feel you're unfit for office for two independent reasons and need to apologize to the community before resigning.

"Lies, lies, and damn statistics."

"Figures never lie, but liars always figure."

Rafael Cho

From: Joanne Budde <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, December 14, 2024 12:40 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - Ordinance # 2024-12-042 - December 16, 2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council members,

I am writing in support of Ordinance 2024-12-042, which would require city council approval before the purchase or use of policing technology; and would require a use report and a use policy for each technology in use, or proposed.

I get the sense that the City Council is not provided with a lot of details about policing activities, crime data, and other issues regarding public safety and protection of civil rights in Urbana. (I could be wrong).

When the police say they don't get support from City Council, I suspect that perception is fueled by the fact that City Council members do not feel they are informed enough to approve some of the requests of the police department.

This Ordinance would require that additional information be provided to the City Council and would require its approval - a win-win all around - the City Council gets more information; and in return, that additional information may help the police department get more approvals on their requests.

This Ordinance provides another level of oversight - which is never a bad thing!

And, it provides for public input and comment, which is never a bad thing!

I urge you to vote YES for this Ordinance.

Thank you,
Joanne Budde

[REDACTED]
Urbana, IL [REDACTED]

Rafael Cho

From: Julie R. Laut <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 10:09 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Public input

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I write in favor of the proposed ordinance requiring a process of public input and council approval prior to the UPD acquiring new surveillance technologies. A deliberate, transparent process will allow Urbana residents to understand these technologies and weigh in on their merit prior to implementation in our community.

Sincerely,
Julie Laut
Urbana resident

Rafael Cho

From: Carol Spindel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 2:38 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT
Attachments: ACLU-CC LETTER TO URBCC12.16.24.pdf

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Clerk Sandefur, Mayor Marlin and Council,

Attached you will find our letter in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Police Surveillance Technology. The ordinance has been reviewed by our legal staff at ACLU of Illinois. Thank you in advance for sharing this letter to all council members and other relevant staff. Please also share our letter with Chief Boone.

Kind regards,
Carol Spindel

Director of Communications



ACLU of Champaign County
<http://aclu-cu.org>



<https://aclu-cu.org> info@aclu-cu.org

December 16, 2024

Dear Mayor Marlin, Members of the City Council Wu, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Evans, Quisenberry, and Wilken, and Police Chief Boone,

We, the American Civil Liberties Union of Champaign County, write to support passage of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Police Surveillance Technology. Our ACLU chapter is a community organization representing approximately twelve hundred households in Champaign County, a great many of whom live in Urbana. We work with ACLU Illinois to protect civil rights and civil liberties in Champaign County.

The ACLU maintains that legally enforceable safeguards, including robust transparency, oversight, and accountability measures must be in place to protect civil rights and civil liberties before any surveillance technology is deployed.

The decision regarding if and how police technologies should be funded, acquired, or used, and whether data from such technologies should be shared, should not be made until meaningful public input has been solicited and given significant weight. The ordinance under discussion ensures that Urbana residents will have that opportunity.

If a police technology is approved, data reporting measures must be adopted that empower the Council and public to verify that mandated civil rights and civil liberties safeguards have been strictly adhered to. This is critically important because while police technology may threaten the privacy of all of us, surveillance efforts have been used throughout history to intimidate and oppress certain communities and groups more than others, including those that are defined by a common race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, income level, sexual orientation, or political perspective.

Therefore, ACLU Champaign County strongly urges the Urbana City Council to pass this resolution.

Sincerely,

The Steering Committee of the ACLU of Champaign County, Carol Leff, President

Questions: Carol Spindel, Director of Communications



Rafael Cho

From: meg miller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 12:44 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Ordinance 2024-12-042

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please support Ordinance 2024-12-042. Having public input and the approval of our elected City Council concerning new and existing police technology and data bases makes good sense. Let's keep things as transparent as possible! Open discussion helps build trust between our police and citizens.

Margaret Miller
501 East High Street
Urbana

Sent from my iPad

Rafael Cho

From: Joycelyn Landrum-Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 8:45 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please vote for more transparency on Police Surveillance - Ordinance No. 2024-12-042:

Thank you,
Joycelyn Landrum-Brown
[REDACTED] Urbana IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rafael Cho

From: Joycelyn Landrum-Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 15, 2024 8:35 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Vote yes for more transparency for Police Surveillance.

Joycelyn Landrum-Brown, Ph.D.

[REDACTED] Urbana, IL [REDACTED]

Rafael Cho

From: Bren <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 3:34 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 2024-12-16 Committee of the Whole

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I fall into 5 of the disadvantaged categories mentioned in the Ten Shared Principles. The incoming presidential administration publicly plans to target people like me.

So, I was very glad to read ordinance 2024-12-042 regarding surveillance technology, and I hope the council will approve it. To me, limiting the data collected about the everyday lives of people who are not suspected of a crime ensures that UPD can never be compelled to disclose this information, thus making it harder for any governments that demand it to identify and harass vulnerable individuals.

Three things I especially like are:

- The acknowledgement that use of surveillance technology directly affects Urbana's ability to be a sanctuary for disadvantaged groups
- Explicitly releasing the police from corporate NDAs that could prevent them from sharing what a new technology will actually do
- The concrete timeline for reviewing technology that was previously acquired, perhaps by an earlier chief of police with less of a stated commitment to transparency and community cooperation than Chief Boone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bren Larcom, resident of ward 6

Rafael Cho

From: Jenny Forster <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:28 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input for 12/16/2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear City Council and Mayor Marlin,

My name is Jenny Forster, I have been a resident of Urbana since the day I was born.

I am writing to express my support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, which would establish approval, policy, and reporting requirements for policing surveillance technology and databases. As a concerned citizen, I believe that this ordinance is necessary to ensure that the use of these technologies is transparent, accountable, and respectful of the rights and privacy of all citizens. It is important that our policing and law enforcement agencies are held to the highest standards when it comes to the use of these powerful tools. Please consider supporting this ordinance and doing your part to protect the citizens of our city.

While it is understandable to have concerns about the impact of regulation on law enforcement agencies, the use of these powerful tools must be held to the highest standards of accountability and transparency. Without proper oversight and reporting, there is a risk of abuse and misuse of these technologies, which could have serious implications for the rights and privacy of citizens. We urge you to support this ordinance for the protection of our communities.

In the past, there have been numerous instances of police departments in the United States using surveillance technology and databases to abuse their power and infringe on the rights of citizens. This is why the creation of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 is so important, as it will establish much-needed oversight and accountability for the use of these powerful tools. By requiring approval and reporting, this ordinance will help prevent any further abuse of this technology and ensure that it is used in a responsible and ethical manner. We strongly support the passage of this ordinance for the protection of our communities.

Passing this ordinance will allow Urbana to proudly stand tall with the knowledge that the city values its citizens. Be on the right side of history with this one.

Thank you for your time,
Jenny Forster

Rafael Cho

From: Julie Watkins <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:59 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input 12.16 for the record - Support for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello City Council from Julie Watkins,

I am an Urbana resident and I support the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. As the technology around surveillance advances, accountability and transparency through this ordinance helps us build a safer community.

For instance, to refer a previous issue, for the last two FOP contracts there were unanswered questions about the sideletter to the contracts regarding the civilian-police review board. I, and others, asked multiple times for someone from FOP to explain why they insisted on the sideletter. The mayor, and other city officials said some words but no sworn police that I remember. I think it is more likely that the police department would discuss and have transparency if this ordinance is passed.

Thank you for your consideration

Julie

Rafael Cho

From: George Vassilatos <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:50 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public comment 12/16

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please enter my comment into the record.

My name is George Vassilatos and I am writing in support of the resolution drafted by Alderwoman Grace Wilken of Ward 6 that calls for greater transparency and oversight of specific surveillance technologies.

Public oversight and community input are important pillars of a democratic society, and Ald. Wilken's resolution will create valuable safeguards that foster increased community engagement and trust. Please vote in favor of this truly necessary piece of legislation and continue working to prioritize the civil rights of Urbana residents over the profit of private tech contractors.

Legislation that goes even further and takes proactive steps towards protecting our communities from mass surveillance and data mining is also becoming increasingly urgent as the new federal administration comes in with the express intention of cracking down on free speech, de-regulating big tech, and carrying out mass deportations.

Rafael Cho

From: Luke Lee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 7:09 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/16: SUPPORT for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comment out loud.

My name is Luke Lee and I am a CU resident. I support the ordinance introduced by Alderpersons Kolisetty and Wilkens.

The proposed ordinance is a common-sense step toward public safety. So many in the Urbana working class are harmed by overpolicing and discrimination, and we can't allow the police free reign to purchase and use surveillance technologies.

The Urbana working class deserves a system of public safety that actually brings safety and justice. Those most harmed by policing deserve transparency from, and oversight and control over, the institutions that purport to serve and protect us. As the technology around surveillance advances, accountability and transparency through this ordinance helps us build a safer community.

Thank you.

--

Luke Lee (he/him)
Community Member and Student, Life

Rafael Cho

From: Hildegard Luijten <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 7:16 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/16: Support for ordinance on police surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am a CU community member writing to support Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 introduced by Alderpersons Wilkens and Kolisetty. As the technology around surveillance advances, accountability and transparency through this ordinance helps us build a safer community.

Thank you!

Rafael Cho

From: s roper <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 8:34 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Re: Police Surveillance public input 12/16

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my letter below into the record if it is not already on your list to do so.

Thank you.

On Sun, Dec 15, 2024 at 10:00 PM s roper <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear City Council,

I am writing to express my support for Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for Police Surveillance Technology.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that we as a community have a clear understanding and say over how we are surveilled and what ultimately happens with that information. There are countless residents of Urbana who are at potential risk of severe harm if information collected about them is not carefully safeguarded and used with oversight. Additionally, there is a significant potential for abuse of surveillance data and so many unknowns that we face in the years ahead.

We have seen the political landscape change at a rapid pace over the past few years. It is undeniable that young women from other states who seek access to safe abortions in Illinois will be tracked by their state law enforcement agencies. It is also undeniable that hundreds (if not thousands) of our community members face the real threat of deportation in the months and years ahead.

This ordinance does not seek to block the responsible use of police technology and surveillance. It does however put some much needed guardrails in place and would allow the community to understand what information is being collected on them, how it is being used, and who it is being shared with. I recognize that the chief of police feels that this ordinance would be a burden and an inconvenience to his force. Perhaps even more staff will be needed to comply with this ordinance, but the human cost of not passing this ordinance far outweighs any potential financial or emotional cost that passing it will have on the city or Chief Boone.

I strongly urge you to stand with our local ACLU in supporting civil liberties, civil rights, and this ordinance.

Sincerely,
Sarah Roper

Rafael Cho

From: Berry Zhang <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 4:19 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input-December 16, 2024

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read this message into the record during the meeting as I am unable to attend city council tonight.

Hello,

My name is Berry Zhang and I am a resident of Champaign. I am writing to support the resolution that requires police to consult with council before purchasing and using equipment such as license plate readers, surveillance cameras, sting ray tech, X-Ray vans, and facial recognition software. It is essential that the police are held accountable and are not allowed to make decisions on their own without council approval, especially since the police have had a history of violence and abuse against marginalized people and are functionally a modernized slave patrol. Please do not let the police use harmful surveillance technology and advanced weapons without careful consideration and permission from the council. As leaders of the city who claim to serve the people, you must do your duty to protect the citizens of Urbana from the harm that police inflict by requiring that they get approval from council before purchasing and using harmful surveillance technology.

Sincerely,
Berry Zhang

Rafael Cho

From: Adam <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 1:00 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public input for city council meeting 2024-12-16

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please read my comments into the public record.

Dear city council,

Please pass Ordinance No. 2024-12-042.

It provides a clear policy on how the technology acquisitions process should work. It upholds American values such as transparency and allowing the people to have a say in how they are governed.

The ordinance does NOT limit UPD in anything it can purchase. If UPD wants to install indiscriminate mass surveillance that tracks the location of everyone in Urbana 24/7, they can do that... as long as the council approves it. The council should approve such a request if it is lawful and has the consent of the people. This is how representative democracy is supposed to work.

Many people in Urbana are afraid of what the Trump administration is going to force local law enforcement agencies to do. Being a sanctuary city does not allow us to deny lawful requests. We know mass deportations are coming, that lawful orders are coming, and that Urbana may even be specifically targeted in retaliation for being a sanctuary city.

The only defense the city has is to make sure we limit the surveillance data that is collected to what is necessary. And in a democracy, it should be the public who determines what is "necessary". This preserves the checks and balances of our government, and with the incoming administration, those checks and balances are as important as ever!

I expect this to pass unanimously, as I don't think any council member wants to take a stand against transparency or accountability.

If Chief Boone is sincere in his comments about wanting to improve community relations, he will also support this measure to show he is not trying to make important decisions behind the public's back, in closed door meetings.

Sincerely,
Adam Nichols

Rafael Cho

From: Izzy Scott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:15 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Public Input 12.16 - Support for Ordinance on Police Surveillance

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To the Urbana City Council,

Please read my email out loud during public comment.

My name is Isabel Scott; I am a resident of Champaign, but often spend time and money in Urbana. I'm writing to you today to express my support for the police oversight ordinance sponsored by Aldermans Kolisetty and Wilkens. I believe that if the Urbana police force wants to invest in new surveillance technology (including machine learning technology, which is notoriously racially biased), the Council should have a say in how this money is spent. Council's constituents are the ones who'll be surveilled by this technology, and as their representatives, Council should have a say in if this technology is purchased and how it's used. There are also people in the community—visitors, UIUC students, etc., who don't have a say in local government, but are also affected by police surveillance technology. The Council should be acting with them in mind, as well.

Secondly, in regards to Chief Boone's worries about police morale and strengthening police connections to the community, this ordinance presents an excellent opportunity to improve both. This ordinance would provide an opportunity for transparency in how the police invests its money, and its reasoning for purchasing new surveillance technology. Building trust is a two-way street. If the police force believes that more surveillance technology is necessary to fill a need that pre-existing technology cannot, they should be required to explain why, and Council should have the opportunity to decide whether or not that explanation is adequate. I truly believe it's as simple as that.

Sincerely,
Isabel Scott

Rafael Cho

From: Stuart Levy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:23 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Stuart Levy; Karen Medina
Subject: comments in support of proposed surveillance resolution.

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm Stuart Levy, living in Champaign, but I work in Urbana and spend much of my time there. I'm not able to speak in person tonight but ask that my statement be read into the record.

=====

I'd like to comment in support of the proposed resolution regulating the city's use of surveillance technology. I hope it will be adopted.

First, here's an example of why transparent regulation of surveillance use is needed. Many of us use Google products, from email to documents and spreadsheets. I understand that one of the products *already* purchased by the city and other local agencies gives them the ability to extract the Google authentication information from a phone, and use it to retrieve **any or all of that person's Google data**. If use is left up to police discretion, this could be **far** more invasive of privacy even than court-ordered search warrants would allow.

Second, I'd like to comment on policies that I hope will be adopted in the future if the current resolution passes.

As with any collection of potentially sensitive data, there needs to be a limited, brief retention period, after which all data will be deleted. Indefinite retention should not be allowed.

Given that technological surveillance systems will be acquired from outside vendors, the city must get binding commitments that the vendors cannot use the data in other ways beyond the city's control. For example, surveillance vendors might want to create their own aggregate data products and simply sell them to other buyers, from the Federal government to advertisers to insurance companies to states aiming to prosecute people who seek out-of-state reproductive care.

Finally, those future City policies should set a high bar on when surveillance tech may be acquired and under what circumstances its use can be permitted. The Electronic Frontier Foundation has a number of recommendations for good practice, as in its "[Community Control of Police Spy Tech](#)". For example:

Lawmakers must not approve the acquisition or use of a surveillance technology unless, after careful deliberation and community consultation, they find that the benefits outweigh the costs, that the proposal effectively safeguards privacy and civil rights, and that no alternative could accomplish the agency's goals with lesser costs—economically or to civil liberties.

Rafael Cho

From: Annie Feldmeier Adams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:21 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT: Ordinance No. 2024-12-042
Attachments: 241215-Annie F Adams-Ordinance No. 2024-12-042.pdf

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ordinance No. 2024-12-042

Thank you,
Annie Adams

Annie Adams
[REDACTED]

December, 16, 2024

Dear Mayor, City Council, and staff,

I am Annie Adams, resident of Ward 1, Vice-Chair of the Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, University of Illinois employee, and Urbana mayoral candidate.

Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, before you today, would establish approval, policy, and reporting of standard contemporary technology by the police department that is on par with the technology many of us carry in our pockets.

This ordinance would require the council's approval for routine policy operations such as driver's license checks, vehicle registrations, and criminal history information.

Meanwhile, the Champaign police department's investment in technology, with the support of their council, has made it easier for their residents to report crimes and made things more concrete to investigate and solve crimes.

Using tools such as online reporting of crimes to help with processing insurance for forgeries, theft, and traffic accidents. Their automated license plate readers have been essential in solving over 100 crimes that would not have been possible without that technology. Soon, they will integrate additional technologies at their 14 most crash-prone intersections to help people in need in their community.

Most Urbana residents will find themselves in Champaign, on the University of Illinois campus, or flying out of Willard airport. All three entities and surrounding communities use technology solutions to keep citizens safe and solve crimes.

I have been nearly killed by vehicles while on a bicycle and crossing streets as a pedestrian, stalked as a little girl by a grade school teacher, experienced a home burglary, and have been held up at gunpoint; I find it irresponsible that you do not want to use technology to help other people in similar unfortunate situations.

Since Urbana has lost seven officers in the past five months, currently operates with only three to four officers at any time, 24 hours a day, and is on track to respond to 26,000 calls for service this year; allowing them to help citizens by using currently available technology solutions is essential and part of a contemporary police force.

We will be unable to hire or retain officers if we do not allow the use of modern technologies. No one wants to work at a job where you are actively encouraged to de-skill.

If you are determined to proceed despite the current staff retention issues, please send the ordinance to city staff for review.

Thank you,
Annie Adams

[REDACTED]

Urbana, IL

December, 16, 2024

Dear Mayor, City Council, and staff,

I am Annie Adams, resident of Ward 1, Vice-Chair of the Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission, University of Illinois employee, and Urbana mayoral candidate.

Ordinance No. 2024-12-042, before you today, would establish approval, policy, and reporting of standard contemporary technology by the police department that is on par with the technology many of us carry in our pockets.

This ordinance would require the council's approval for routine policy operations such as driver's license checks, vehicle registrations, and criminal history information.

Meanwhile, the Champaign police department's investment in technology, with the support of their council, has made it easier for their residents to report crimes and made things more concrete to investigate and solve crimes.

Using tools such as online reporting of crimes to help with processing insurance for forgeries, theft, and traffic accidents. Their automated license plate readers have been essential in solving over 100 crimes that would not have been possible without that technology. Soon, they will integrate additional technologies at their 14 most crash-prone intersections to help people in need in their community.

Most Urbana residents will find themselves in Champaign, on the University of Illinois campus, or flying out of Willard airport. All three entities and surrounding communities use technology solutions to keep citizens safe and solve crimes.

I have been nearly killed by vehicles while on a bicycle and crossing streets as a pedestrian, stalked as a little girl by a grade school teacher, experienced a home burglary, and have been held up at gunpoint; I find it irresponsible that you do not want to use technology to help other people in similar unfortunate situations.

Since Urbana has lost seven officers in the past five months, currently operates with only three to four officers at any time, 24 hours a day, and is on track to respond to 26,000 calls for service this year; allowing them to help citizens by using currently available technology solutions is essential and part of a contemporary police force.

We will be unable to hire or retain officers if we do not allow the use of modern technologies. No one wants to work at a job where you are actively encouraged to de-skill.

If you are determined to proceed despite the current staff retention issues, please send the ordinance to city staff for review.

Thank you,
Annie Adams


Urbana, IL

Rafael Cho

From: Kim & Bill Colbrook <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 1:25 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT 12/16/2024

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening, Mayor and City Council,

I am Bill Colbrook, a resident of Ward 6, and along with my wife, own a business downtown, in Ward 2. I am also a candidate for Alderman in Ward 6.

My comment tonight is in regards to the proposed ordinance for policing technologies.

I have 35 years experience in law enforcement, having retired as a Captain from the Illinois State Police and the Chief of Police at Parkland College. I have worked all over the state and nation in my official capacity.

I know what good law enforcement looks like, and more importantly, I know what bad law enforcement looks like. The Urbana Police Department is one of the best police agencies you can find. We should feel blessed for having the police department that we do.

This ordinance strikes me as an attempt to restrict the daily operations of our police department. It is micro-management by the Council of a city department. I believe it is overreach and exceeds the authority of the Council.

I am not the only one that feels that way. I have had multiple conversations with residents that are deeply concerned that this ordinance, if passed in its current form, will hinder current and future investigations, jeopardize the safety of our police officers, and make our City less safe. From the input I have received, this does not represent the wishes of Ward 6 and the City.

Transparency and accountability should be demanded of all of our city departments, most of all the police department. But this is not the proper vehicle for that.

To much of my dismay and to the best of my knowledge, it has not had any review by the corporate council, police chief, or city staff. Competent government requires input from experts and affected staff, in order to make good legislation.

The very broad definitions of the targeted technology and databases would include established, time-tested technologies that literally every police department in Illinois, if not the nation uses. Databases that contain driver's license and vehicle registration information, gang databases, dash cam and body-worn cameras, the State Police and FBI/NCIC fingerprint and wanted files, among others. If the Council does not retroactively give their blessing on these technologies, it would be devastating to the health and safety of our officers and residents of the City.

As part of the justification for this ordinance, the Ten Shared Principals were cited. It is true, transparency is an important pillar of the Ten Shared Principals. I can assure you, an ordinance of this nature was not the intent of the NAACP and the Illinois Chiefs of Police. The reason I know this, is because I was honored to have participated

in the police and community roundtables that created the Ten Shared Principals. Over multiple sessions, I was in the room. I was at the table. This ordinance is not in the spirit of the Ten Shared Principals.

It is stated in the ordinance that it is needed to deter the police from apprehending out-of-state abortion seekers in their quest to obtain reproductive healthcare. My question back to Council: Says who? This is an outlandish statement not based in fact.

Also stated is the need to protect residents without legal immigration status. There is already an Illinois law for this. It is called the Trust Act. It specifically prevents Illinois cops from assisting ICE with issues that only relate to immigration status.

In addition, a stated need is to prevent law enforcement from apprehending citizens exercising their right of free speech. The 1st Amendment allows for these activities. The officers on the police department swear an oath to uphold the provisions of the Constitution.

It is also stated that federal law enforcement will access data collected locally. Once again, says who?

These justifications are not rooted in fact and only serve to mis-inform and scare your constituents.

In addition, to assert there will be no fiscal impact is incorrect. Any budget person will tell you that staff time alone, has a financial impact.

Lastly, 17 sources are listed that apparently generated the guiding principles. However, there are no citations. The reader has no idea which source was used to generate any given guiding principle. Any professor will tell you, show your work. Let the reader access the same material to challenge your affirmations.

This is a bad proposal based on flawed assumptions. I urge you to keep this in committee and send this to city staff for further review and input, where it should have started all along.

Thank you.

Rafael Cho

From: Giovanna Dibenedetto <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 6:14 PM
To: City Council; James Quisenberry; Diane Marlin; Annie Feldmeier Adams
Subject: Personal comments for public input tonight

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I know this is really late I apologize children took priority if it can be put into the record tonight great if not I totally get it

First let me start out by saying my comments tonight or that of my personal beliefs and convictions regarding the issues discussed and voted on at last week's meeting. I'm not able to attend tonight's meeting because I am at Lily's concert. At the moment Silver Hearts has no comment.

On December 9th my family and I attended the city council meeting in response to a vote that was being taken to fix a simple accounting mistake regarding the community engagement office. This is money that was already voted on and approved for the general budget.

Jaya Kolisetty, Grace Jones and Chris Evans not only voted against it but their comments paraphrased in a nutshell were that people didn't want the center, social services didn't want more police and that this center would put more police that people were afraid of in the community.

So it is right now that I am speaking more directly to them. I do not know where any of you live nor do I need to however I am betting that you don't live on a street where gunshots can be heard on a regular basis, I'm betting that you don't live a half a block down where a young man was shot and killed in front of his girlfriend and others and those that murdered him jumped in a car right across the street from your house, I'm betting that your kids can play safely outside without fear of being caught by stray bullet or with fights or any type of violence breaking out in front of them. I'm betting that you have never sat with multiple victims or residents and listened and I mean truly listened and tried to imagine what it's like to have to live like this. I even wonder how much time you have spent in these neighborhoods that you are claiming to speak for. Especially the Silver/Vawter area, I can say without a doubt out of the last 9 years that I've been in Urbana I lived in that area for 7 years and volunteered for various agencies in addition to the agency that I started and I have never ever seen any of you there. So how dare you stop funding of something that you already promised the community that you would give us because you think you know what's needed!!

I do not know why you continually vote down things like license plate readers and now introduce an ordinance regarding electronic devices and such that the police need to do their jobs!! What I do know is that this is not what the community as a whole wants. We do not want our police officers to not be able to do their job to keep themselves their families and us safe. What we do want is easier access so we don't have to take over 2 hours to access a police station or social services etc! These are all things that you probably take for granted.

The people of Urbana are truly tired of this. I am tired of this, you see in addition to the time that I spent in Silverwood, that shooting at the end of a block was at the end of my street where I've lived for the last 3 years. It was in the darkness that I saw the people get away, it took months before an arrest was able to be made and I thank the Urbana police department for their tireless work on that case.

My neighbors and I wonder though how much faster that could have gone had they had things like lpr's that would have given them the information they needed. During that time we all lived in fear for our families. My youngest Iva who

spoke at last week's meeting when she hears a gunshot she still immediately grabs a hold of me and hold on tight it hides behind my legs out of fear.

This has got to stop, I do not know what the real reasons behind your stance is, Nor will I make an assumption and give my opinion. What I do know for a fact is that my neighbors and I do not share what you are claiming the community wants.

Lastly for the rest of the city council and the mayor's staff I want to say thank you so much for bringing these programs forward in order to make Urbana an incredible city to live in.