
DATE: Monday, August 3, 2026
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, August 3, 2026, at 7 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: DeShawn Williams, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Verdell Jones III, CM Stephanie Cockrell, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Evan Alvarez, Darius White, Matthew Roeschley, Olivia Jovine, Seok Hyun Cho

OTHERS PRESENT: J.D. McClanahan, Planner III for Champaign County Regional Planning Commission

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. 06-01-2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
- b. 06-08-2026 City Council Meeting Minutes
- c. 06-15-2026 Committee of the Whole Public Hearing Minutes

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

Voice Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. Public Input

Jordan spoke in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 regarding the regulation of surveillance technologies. Stated the Ordinance provides residents with the opportunity to share feedback regarding surveillance technologies and requires transparency on the use of surveillance technologies. Noted Section 2-227(c)2 remains in the Ordinance despite Council agreeing to remove the section. Stated the Ordinance should explicitly prohibit the use of improperly collected data.

a. Public Input (Continued)

Jane McClintock read a letter on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Champaign County in support of Ordinance No. 2024-12-042. *Mitch* spoke in support of approving Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and expressed appreciation for the work toward developing the Ordinance.

City Attorney Matt Roeschley shared Section 2-227(c)2 has been corrected per Council direction and the copy attached to the packet had a drafting error that did not include the corrections. **City Clerk Sandefur** noted members of the public who are still loading the original version of the packet may have to clear their cache to access the updated packet, uploaded at around 2 p.m., earlier this afternoon.

Brenda Owens spoke on her experience with a person who is living in car outside of her home for the previous year and a half. Noted the person is within parking regulations as he regularly pushes his car into other parking spaces. Expressed discomfort with the thought of this person continuing to reside in his car outside of her home. Requested the City remove the person and car from proximity to her home. *Ben Joselyn* thanked the City for their work in developing Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 in spite of the stressful living conditions of this modern era. Emphasized the level of surveillance established by technologies, such as automated license plate readers (ALPRs), invite an invasion of privacy into the lives of everyone in Urbana by those from outside of the community. Expressed appreciation for Council protecting residents from the abuse of surveillance technologies.

Written Public Input regarding Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and banning ALPRs were received from the following individuals and were read by Council: Anonymous, David Young, Sarah Nixon, Stuart Levy, Paul Meuth, and Danielle Chynoweth.

Written Public Input regarding Ordinance No. 2024-12-042 and the Urbana Housing Needs Study were received from the following individuals but were not read: Esther Patt, Jane McClintock, Nancy Dietrich, Lilah Leopold, Tom Bassett and Carol Spindel, Judy Van Cleeff, Grace Giorgio, Jon, Anonymous, Julie Laut, C.L. Barbieri, Carol Inskeep, Usman Faridi, and Dick Detzner.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Jones expressed hope from seeing the number of Black community leaders hosting community events in the area and collaborating to improve public safety.

6. Reports of Standing Committees

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Stephanie Cockrell, Ward 5)

1. Consent Agenda

None.

2. Regular Agenda

- a. **Resolution No. 2026-07-043R:** A Resolution Approving an Increase in the Number of Liquor Licenses in the Class P Designation for Shaun & Singh Inc. d/b/a Beverage Genie, 1506 North Cunningham Avenue, Urbana, Ill. – Exec

The Resolution increases the number of Class P (Package Retailer's Off-Premises Consumption) liquor licenses for their establishment at 1506 North Cunningham Avenue.

Motion to approve by CM Cockrell, seconded by CM Wilken. Discussion followed.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Jones

- b. **Ordinance No. 2024-12-042:** An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Urbana City Code Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for the Acquisition and Use of Surveillance Technology – 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).

Motion to approve, as amended, by CM Cockrell, seconded by CM Evans. Discussion ensued.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Hursey

- i. Motion to amend the definition of "Surveillance Technology", as amended, to the following definition by CM Wu, seconded by CM Quisenberry:

"Surveillance Technology means any electronic device, hardware, or software that is designed, intended, or primarily used by the City to monitor, observe, identify, or track the activities, movements, communications, or associations of identifiable individuals or groups. Surveillance Technology includes tools that collect, capture, record, retain, process, intercept, analyze, or monitor audio, visual, photographic, biometric, geolocation, or other data reasonably capable of identifying or tracking an individual with or without their knowledge."

1. CM Wu and CM Quisenberry accepted the friendly amendment, proposed by CM Wilken, to remove the word "electronic" from "electronic device".

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Hursey

b. Ordinance No. 2024-12-042: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 2 (Administration) of the Urbana City Code Establishing Approval, Policy, and Reporting Requirements for the Acquisition and Use of Surveillance Technology – CM Wilken **(Continued)**

- ii.** Motion to amend by CM Wilken, seconded by CM Evans to add the following line at the end of the definition of “Sensitive Surveillance Technology Information”:

“The redaction of “Sensitive Surveillance Technology Information” shall not exempt any technology from disclosure; it shall only exclude or redact information about a disclosed technology. (i.e. model numbers, exact locations, etc).”

and to add the following disclosure requirement as Section 2-227(i) for noncompliant collections of data, in violation of the Ordinance:

(i) Disclosure

- 1) Report the identified violation to Council within 30 days;
- 2) Include a summary of potential and identified violations in the Surveillance Technology Annual Report.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Jones, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Hursey

8. Reports of Special Committees

None.

9. Reports of Officers

a. Urbana Housing Needs Study – Existing Conditions

Presented by J.D. McClanahan, Planner III for Champaign County Regional Planning Commission with an introduction from Evan Alvarez, Principal Planner. Evan Alvarez stated the presentation will build upon the previous presentation on data collection methodology and discuss the findings on existing conditions that will inform the next steps for the Urbana Housing Needs Study (UHNS). J.D. McClanahan spoke on the Resident Survey, Landlord Survey, and Stakeholder Interviews that were conducted as the Public Outreach strategy for the UHNS. Stated that the surveys were available from March 31 to May 1, and the interviews were held from April 6 to May 18.

Shared the Resident Survey received 325 responses that were mostly from residents in Urbana, but respondents were significantly older, whiter, higher-income, and more likely to be homeowners compared to the actual Urbana population. Stated the next phase of Public Outreach will focus on receiving responses from renters and underrepresented communities in Urbana. Spoke on findings from the Resident Survey responses and the overrepresentation of certain demographics compared to a median Urbana resident. Shared the responses to the open-ended question most frequently included concerns on housing affordability, housing supply, property taxes, and the wellbeing of vulnerable populations.

a. Urbana Housing Needs Study – Existing Conditions (Continued)

Stated the Landlord Survey was similarly formatted to the Resident Survey and was distributed through the Urbana Rental Registry list, receiving 134 respondents that represent the management of around 36% of Urbana rental units. Reported that 90% of the respondents were property owners residing in Champaign County and the majority of them managed under 10 units of housing. Stated the survey received a few responses from landlords that managed 10-49 or 100-499 rental units and fewer from those who manage 50-99 or 500-999 rental units. Presented the data from the survey as unweighted, solely considering responses, and as weighted, which considers the number of units a respondent represents. Spoke on the responses received regarding tenant types represented by landlords, if they have increased rent in the last year, vacancies in their properties, rental issues, and market perceptions. Stated the reported vacancies from the survey indicate a vacancy rate ranging between 1.3% and 5.5% with a midrange of 2.1%, indicating the 9.9% vacancy rate reported in the American Community Survey (ACS) is likely an overestimate. Stated the general market perception leans toward viewing Urbana as strong rental market for landlords with high demand and low vacancy rates. Shared open-ended responses to a section for additional comments most frequently mentioned the City's Rental Inspection Program, market conditions, personal issues, and property taxes.

Spoke on the approach taken for the 12 Stakeholder Interviews representing the local sectors of Government, Nonprofit, Real Estate, Higher Education, and Economic Development. Stated general recurring concerns and themes across the interviews included: supply, affordability, population and equity, market dynamics, landlord and tenant relationships, policies and recommendations, and external and system issues. Further elaborated on the specific topics and concerns frequently raised within Stakeholder Interviews.

Stated affordability was the most common issue raised across all outreach forms with variation on the reported sources of unaffordability. Noted the results from the outreach differ from federal data significantly on the metrics of housing cost change over time and vacancy rates. Reported residents are concerned with public safety and property owners who manage a large number of rental units from out-of-state. Stated the study found a large presence of small, local landlords.

Shared the CCRPC has made available the following sections on the UNHS at ccrpc.org/urbana-housing: Process; Plans, Case Studies, and Literature Review; Existing Conditions; Public Outreach. Stated City of Urbana staff will soon be hosting a series of open houses and outreach efforts to gather more public input. Questions and discussion followed.

10. Mayoral Appointments

a. Board and Commission Reappointments

i. Housing Authority of Champaign County Board of Directors

– Peter McFarland (term ending July 31, 2031)

ii. Civil Service Commission

– Tom Betz (term ending June 30, 2029)

a. **Board and Commission Reappointments (Continued)**

Building Safety Code Board of Appeals

– Brad Houk (term ending June 30, 2031)

Sustainability Advisory Commission

– Morgan White (term ending June 30, 2029)

The Urbana Free Library Board of Trustees

– Justin Kingston (term ending June 30, 2029)

Motion to approve the Board and Commission Reappointments by CM Hursey, seconded by CM Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

b. **Board and Commission Appointments**

iii. **Urbana Arts & Culture Commission**

– Sheila Parinas (term ending June 30, 2029)

iv. **Plan Commission**

– Anna Hough (term ending June 30, 2029)

Sustainability Advisory Commission – Youth Seat

– Peter Wald (term ending December 11, 2026)

Motion to approve the Board and Commission Appointments by CM Jones, seconded by CM Wilken.

Roll Call Vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Jones, Cockrell, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None.

11. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council, Mayor Williams adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Seok Hyun Cho

Deputy City Clerk

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

Minutes approved: 9/8/26

PUBLIC INPUT: August 3, 2026 Rescheduled City Council Meeting

From Esther Patt [REDACTED]
Date Sun 8/2/2026 7:42 AM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

On behalf of the Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union, I offer these questions and comments about the Housing Study.

Only 134 landlords responded to the landlord survey.

1. To how many landlords was the survey sent and was there any follow-up to the landlords who did not respond?
2. How many of the 12,100 rental units in Urbana are accounted for in the survey results from those 134 landlords?
3. The survey asked the wrong question about rent amounts, asking only for a count of units in the broad rental range of \$1,000 - \$1,499 rent. Most rents fall in that range. The data inform you **ONLY** that households earning \$65,000 or more annually can afford most rental housing. But this data will not tell you whether half, two-thirds or 90% of those units are **unaffordable to folks earning less than \$58,000**. You need to know that information to make decisions about affordable housing policy.

Only 325 residents responded to the resident survey – that's 7/10ths of one percent of the population.

How many of those 325 are tenants?

The survey asks the wrong questions. One tenant to whom we sent the survey wrote back saying: ***"I submitted it but it's a pretty useless survey. It asks about attitudes but doesn't ask about what the community needs like what type of housing and in what income category and special needs like full wheelchair accessibility."***

For a good tenant survey, you need to ask two open-ended questions:

1. In the last 4 years, what housing problems have you experienced?
2. To the best of your knowledge, what are the most important housing needs for tenants in Urbana?

As Dr. Cockrell pointed out at last week's meeting, most tenants will never attend a public meeting or answer an email survey. You need more effective outreach strategies. Please consider:

1. Of the 12 "stakeholders" in the housing study, half are banking, business and landlord interests, four are government units, and only two are non-profit agencies. You need to expand your idea of stakeholders to include the dozens of non-profit agencies and public entities like the Urbana Free Library that have daily contact with people who are tenants.

2. Although this probably won't happen, you could also engage in actual street outreach to conduct short, in-person interviews with tenants. I wonder how long it would take to get more than 325 responses to a short survey by stationing someone at the bus stop on Broadway in front of the parking deck and asking each person waiting for a bus "do you rent in Urbana?" and if so, "what do you think are the housing problems facing tenants in Urbana?" But even if you reject this idea, you really should engage the entire social services community in a more significant way than just one email blast announcing a survey.

I thank you for your service and ask you to please take seriously the questions and suggestions in this message.

Sincerely,
Esther Patt, Director
Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union

Surveillance Ordinance - Public Input 8/3

From Jane McClintock [REDACTED]
Date Sun 8/2/2026 4:29 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

 1 attachment (138 KB)
Surveillance Tech Ord - Summary.pdf;

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi all,

Thank you for all your efforts on the surveillance ordinance! I encourage you to pass this important legislation Monday. I have attached a summary with a couple of notes and impressions of minor issues that should be corrected. I hope this is helpful to review and don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss.

A few issues:

- 1.) Just a typo but there is redundant text in Section 221.1(c)(a). (Definitions of exempt technologies.)
- 2.) 2-221(c)(6): As discussed in the City Council meeting on July 27, 2026: this is *only* intended to exempt information about the technology (such as a model number) but would not provide an exemption from reporting the existence of a surveillance technology. It was also discussed that the information may be provided to the City Council but redacted in the public documents. It may be helpful to clarify this here to avoid confusion and ensure as much transparency as possible. Consider adding something like: The redaction of "Sensitive Surveillance Technology Information" shall not exempt any technology from disclosure; it shall only exclude or redact information about a disclosed technology. (i.e. model numbers, exact locations, etc).
- 3.) Section 227(c)(2) - The Council direction to staff July 27, 2026 was to add section 2-227 but without 2-227(c)(2) that explicitly allowed the data to be used (because it is a "big loophole" that could make the ordinance meaningless). This section was still included in the draft ordinance (likely by accident) against council direction. Beyond that fix, this section could still use some work, minimally we suggest clarifying reporting requirements. Watch the [7/27 meeting](#) timestamp ~3:22:00 for more details.
- 4.) 2-227(h) intends to describe how non-allowed use of surveillance technology will be documented. However, it appears to be unclear how the non-compliant uses are reported. Suggest providing the similar reporting requirements as for "exigent circumstances" to ensure accountability (report within 30 days of the incident and include in the annual report).

Thank you,

Jane



Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the City of Urbana's Surveillance Technology reporting ordinance No. 2024-12-042. The ordinance will be voted on at the [August 3, 2026 City Council Meeting](#) at 7pm.

It is imperative that we have some control over how our personal data is used, stored, and marketed. This ordinance is an important step towards ensuring these rights in the City of Urbana and we applaud the council members for working on this important legislation.

Under the terms of the ordinance, if a City department wants to use surveillance technology, they come to the council and explain what the technology does, why it is important to acquire it and how it will be used. After the public has a month to weigh in, the City Council would vote whether to approve the request.

Requiring this transparency reassures everyone that their voice matters. We don't know what technology will be invented and marketed in the future. It's clear that Urbana residents want reasonable guardrails placed around their data to protect it and to specify how the City of Urbana uses it. With this ordinance in place, Urbana residents will be able to find out about new surveillance technologies before their acquisition and to have a say in whether we approve of this kind of surveillance in our community.

In order to help residents engage with the proposed ordinance, we have provided a summary of the [document](#) below. Some editorial notes are provided in ***bold and italics***.

How to Submit Public Input and Watch the Meeting:

We encourage interested people to contact citycouncil@urbanail.gov with "PUBLIC INPUT" and the meeting date in the subject line. If you would like your input to be read aloud into the public meeting, let them know. If you live in Urbana, you can also contact your council member directly here: <https://www.urbanail.gov/city-clerk/page/city-council>. You can attend in person at the 400 S Vine Street or you can watch live on UPTV via [YouTube](#).

Where to Find the Full Proposed Text of the Ordinance:

Follow along with the main text: [Link Here](#). Or go to (<https://www.urbanail.gov/>) main website, click 'meetings and agendas', click 'upcoming meetings' (or 'recent meetings' if you are reading this after August 3), then click the pdf link in the 'Agenda Packets' column and in the row designated 'August 3, 2026 | 7 pm, City Council Rescheduled Meeting.' The ordinance we will discuss is 'Ordinance No. 2024-12-042' found in agenda item G(2)(b). The material relevant to the ordinance begins on page 9 of the agenda packet. **The text of the ordinance begins on page 13.**

Summary of the Ordinance:

We encourage the reader to read the 'brief background and previous action' section that begins on page 9. Further, page 11 provides context on how this Urbana ordinance sits into the broader

trends of the country. Pages 13, 14 of the agenda packet provide some of the 'official' motivation for the ordinance.

Disclaimer: In the following, we have tried to include the most important details of the ordinance, but please note that there are a few omissions due to time and space constraints. Also, no summary is perfect. Thus it is important for the reader to not take our word for granted and follow along themselves.

Section 2-220

Top of page 15 states the purpose of the ordinance, which is to "provide transparency, oversight, and accountability regarding the acquisition and use of surveillance technology and the data it collects by the City of Urbana, and to protect privacy, civil rights, and racial and immigrant justice." It also notes that the ordinance does not intend to unreasonably hamper law enforcement.

Note that the ordinance applies to all city departments, including the police department.

Section 2-221 and important definitions

Definitions used throughout the ordinance are found in Section 2-221 (starts page 15). These include exigent circumstances 2-221(a), surveillance 2-221(b), and surveillance technology 2-221(c). Definition 2-221(c)(1) (starts bottom of page 15) provides concrete examples of surveillance technology (but does not limit the purview of the ordinance to these technologies only) that citizens of Urbana wish to have oversight over.

Definition 2-221(c)(2) (starts page 16) of Section 2-221 also gives explicit examples of technology that are exempt from this ordinance. The councilmembers at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 27, 2026 voted to add 2-221(c)(2)(p), "Case specific use of publicly available information, open-source intelligence, and federally or state-regulated criminal justice databases and federal and state law enforcement infrastructure such as ... and other similar systems," to the list of exempt technologies. ***NOTE: There is redundant text that needs to be corrected section 2a.***

Section 2-221 provides definitions of 'use report' 2-221(c)(3), 'use policy' 2-221(c)(4), and 'annual report' 2-221(c)(5) that are the core accountability features of the ordinance. They are all publicly-released documents. The use report and the use policy are written before each surveillance technology can be used, whereas the annual report is released on an annual basis after surveillance technologies have been used. Sections 2-222 and 2-224 provide detailed descriptions of what needs to be included in each document.

Each of the definitions 2-221(c)(3), 2-221(c)(4), 2-221(c)(5) has a subsection at the end that states, "sensitive surveillance technology information (SSTI) will not be included." The definition of SSTI is given in 2-221(c)(6). ***NOTE: As discussed in the City Council meeting on July 27, 2026: this is only intended to exempt information about the technology (such as a model number) but would not provide an exemption from reporting the existence of a***

surveillance technology. It was also discussed that the information may be provided to the City Council but redacted in the public documents. It may be helpful to clarify this here to avoid confusion and ensure as much transparency as possible.

How the Ordinance Works

Sections 2-222, 2-223, 2-225 describe how technologies/contracts would be approved by the City Council before they are used and provides some guidelines for what can be approved

Section 2-224 talks about reporting the use of technologies once they start being used. Additionally, it prescribes how to handle surveillance technology that's already in use before the ordinance is passed.

Sections 2-226 details an exigent circumstances exemption to how some surveillance technology may be used without going through the above approval process during an emergency at the discretion of the mayor or their designee. The use must be reported to the City Council within 30 days of the use.

Section 2-227 explains how to treat surveillance data that is obtained neither through approved means nor through exigent circumstances, i.e. improperly. ***NOTE: The Council direction to staff July 27, 2026 was to add section 2-227 but without 2-227(c)(2) that explicitly allowed the data to be used (because it is a "big loophole" that could make the ordinance meaningless). This section was still included in the draft ordinance (likely by accident). Beyond that fix, this section could still use some work, minimally we suggest clarifying reporting requirements. Watch the [7/27 meeting](#) timestamp ~3:22:00 for more details.***

More details on Sections 2-222 to 2-225 Below:

Before the use of a surveillance technology by a department:

- Approval process (see Sections 2-222 and 2-223).
- Contracts with third parties (Section 2-225)
 - Council must give majority vote on contracts with third parties regarding surveillance technology.
 - 2-225(c) Prohibits any city department from entering into a contract/other agreement that, "facilitates the sharing of surveillance data in the City's possession with any non-governmental entity or third party in exchange for money or other consideration, whether or not such surveillance data was generated by or is owned by the City."

Existing surveillance technologies (Section 2-224)

- 2-224(a) Regards the technologies approved through the process of sections 2-222, 2-223 as well as the technology the city uses right now before the ordinances is passed.
- Lays out some particularities for surveillance technology the city currently uses.
 - 2-224(b)(1) and 2-224(b)(2) City has to provide 'retroactive' use reports and use policies, but may request extensions of deadlines for this paperwork.

- 2-224(b)(3) During the approval process of existing surveillance technologies, city may continue using the tech.
- Current contracts that fall under the purview of section 2-225(c) shall not be renewed unless they go through the process of Section 2-225.

Section 2-226 Exigent Circumstances Exemption

- See definition of exigent circumstances in 2-221. During exigent circumstances, a city department may use surveillance technology for a limited amount of time without getting prior approval. In other words, during exigent circumstances, the processes of Section 2-222, 2-223, and 2-225 may be skipped. An example could be Urbana borrows unapproved technology from a neighboring police department (e.g. University of Illinois or Champaign City or County).
- 2-226(b) But invocations of section 2-226 require documentation of the incident into use reports and annual reports AFTER the exigent circumstances have ended.
- 2-226(b)(6) However, the invoking city department may exclude certain information it deems sensitive from the reports until "the point at which the reason for such redaction no longer exists."
- 2-226(c) City departments may apply 'updates' to their surveillance technologies to mitigate cyber security threats. These updates may alter the surveillance capabilities of the technology, which the department can use if they are approved via sections 2-222, 2-223, 2-225 OR if "the mayor or the mayor's designee determines the use is unavoidable." In this second case, the department will document the use of these upgraded features.

Section 2-227

- 2-227(b) If a city department obtains data from unapproved surveillance technology and not through exigent circumstances, then this violation gets documented.
- 2-227(c)(2) Additionally, the department is still allowed to use the data for legitimate law enforcement purposes. **NOTE: The Council direction to staff July 27, 2026 appeared to be to remove Section 2-227(c)(2). We think that this section was included in the ordinance by accident.**
- 2-227(d) To adhere to existing laws, the improperly collected data, in some cases, cannot be destroyed immediately or may have to be disclosed (e.g. Brady disclosure).
- 2-227(e)(1) Section 2-227 of this ordinance has no authority to exclude evidence in a legal proceeding.
- 2-227(f) If a violation occurs, the department will try to prevent it from happening again.
- 2-227(g) Improperly collected data may have to be retained to satisfy existing laws. Otherwise, the data will be deleted 'following completion of review'.
- 2-227(h) Basically every invocation of this section will be documented. **NOTE: It appears to be unclear exactly how this is documented or to whom the documentation must be provided. Suggest providing at least the same reporting requirements as for "exigent circumstances" to ensure accountability.**

PUBLIC INPUT AUG 3 2026: Surveillance Oversight Ordinance

From Carol Spindel [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 9:29 AM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>
Cc Jane McClintock [REDACTED]

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

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aclu-cu.org

Dear Mayor Williams and Urbana City Council Members,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Champaign County (ACLU-CC) writes to express our deep appreciation for the Council's detailed and persistent work on Surveillance Oversight Ordinance No. 2024-12-042.

We understand that, given the complexity of this topic, a few passages of the ordinance remain to be clarified. We hope this can be accomplished expeditiously. We strongly support this effort, and once the ordinance has been fine-tuned, we urge the Council to vote unanimously for its passage.

The ordinance will ensure that, despite the rapid evolution of technology, Urbana will retain its identity as a community that values privacy and protects civil rights and civil liberties, as well as a community that listens to the voices of its residents and gives them a say in the important decisions that affect their daily lives. Again, thank you for your efforts to protect the civil liberties of Urbana's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Champaign County

Jane McClintock, President

aclu-cu.org

PUBLIC INPUT AUGUST 3, 2026

From Nancy Dietrich [REDACTED]
Date Sun 8/2/2026 10:08 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

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Hello,

I am writing to express my support for the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance, Ordinance no. 2024-12-042. I urge you to pass this important, common-sense oversight regarding surveillance technology in Urbana.

Thank you,

Nancy Dietrich

Urbana, IL



Outlook

PUBLIC INPUT Aug. 3 2026

From Lilah Leopold [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:36 AM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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

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Dear Urbana City Council Members,

My name is Lilah Leopold and I live in Ward 4. I am out of town today so am writing to thank you for the work you are doing with the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

I strongly support your votes for this timely and super important measure.

Sincere and continued thanks,

PUBLIC INPUT AUG 3, 2026

From Tom Bassett [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 9:19 AM
To City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.gov>; Maryalice Wu <Maryalice.Wu@UrbanaIL.gov>
Cc Carol Spindel [REDACTED]

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Dear Mary Alice,

We are writing to express our support for the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance that will come up for a vote this evening at the Urbana City Council meeting.

The ordinance does not prohibit surveillance technology, but it does set common sense oversight guardrails to ensure our personal data is not misused. Importantly, it gives us, the public, a chance to be informed about any new surveillance, ask questions, and voice our concerns to our elected representatives.

We want to thank you and your fellow council members for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Bassett
Carol Spindel

[REDACTED]
Urbana, IL

PUBLIC INPUT AUG 3, 2026 (Ordinance No. 2024-12-042)

From Judy Van Cleeff [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 1:05 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>
Cc Judy Van Cleeff [REDACTED]

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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To the City Council of Urbana -
Regarding the SURVEILLANCE OVERSIGHT ORDINANCE ,, first, thank you for exercising leadership on this important issue. This Ordinance is needed for the protection of the privacy of the citizens of Urbana and those who pass through our city. Providing PROACTIVE means for reducing the harm of these devices, exerting control over their use, and keeping the public informed of their use and misuse, is an important step in the right direction!

I urge you to vote FOR the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

Thank you,
Judy

--

Dr. J Van Cleeff

[REDACTED]
Urbana, IL [REDACTED]

PUBLIC INPUT AUG 3, 2026

From Grace Giorgio [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 1:13 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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Greetings,

I am asking you to vote for the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance tonight. I am unable to attend the meetings as I have other obligations. Nevertheless, I have been following this debate and firmly believe this ordinance will protect the public's safety and privacy. It also allows for the public's awareness of any new surveillance proposals encouraging for public input.

Thank you,

Grace Giorgio

[REDACTED]
Urbana, IL

--

There are a thousand reasons to live this life--
every one of them sufficient.

J. Amos, Gilead,
M. Robinson

PUBLIC INPUT 8/3/26 City Council Meeting

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 1:57 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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Good afternoon,

My name is Jon, I am a ward 5 resident of Urbana and I am writing to you today to say that I hope you will vote in favor of the surveillance oversight ordinance this evening. I am not able to attend this evening's meeting, but I wanted to voice my support for this effort to make sure our rights are being protected. In any job I have ever had, major purchases required a superior's approval before I could proceed - and nothing I ever bought on behalf of an employer had the potential to violate another person's constitutional rights. I believe that you, our elected representatives, have a duty and obligation that we make sure to safeguard our neighbors' rights even in difficult circumstances such as dealing with law and crime.

Thank you for your time and effort working on this!

PUBLIC INPUT 08/03/2026 City Council Rescheduled Meeting

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 10:25 AM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

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Dear City Council,

I wish to make apparent some errors I noticed in the Surveillance Technology Oversight Ordinance.

- I noticed that Section 2-227(c)(2), "Data identified under subsection (b): ... may be used for legitimate law enforcement purposes, unless and until the City Attorney determines that such use would violate applicable law; and..." retains the language of the UPD proposal section 7(c)(2) to the previous v8.2 version of the ordinance **that the Council explicitly voted to carve out at the July 27, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting.**
- Typos
 - Page 16 of agenda packet, Section 2-221(c)(2)(a) is a repetition of the main heading of 2-221(c)(2).
 - Section 2-226(b)(4): specifically refers to police department yet the the heading of section 2-226(b) refers to an arbitrary city department.

Sincerely,

A community member

PUBLIC INPUT 3-AUGUST-2026

From [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 4:45 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Please read / enter into minutes

Hello and good evening,

In addition to passing the resolution to regulate the police's use of surveillance technologies, I write to encourage all members of city council to consider a full and total ban on **all** ALPRs (automated license plate readers) in city limits. This includes but is not limited to Flock, Motorola Vigilant, Leonardo ELSAG, and Rekor.

There is no meaningful argument for the presence of ALPRs here or anywhere. I applaud so far there has been a lack of them in Urbana, a sign of strength compared to our neighbors who rush to sell the data of their citizens, offering up our privacy on the altar of Big Tech!

Now is time to have courage and to be leaders in opposition to the developing surveillance state.

When your friends and family ask you, "What side were you on?" tonight will surely be part of your answer: On the side of the people, or on the side of the elites.

Sincerely, a concerned Urbana resident.



Outlook

PUBLIC INPUT - Surveillance Oversight Ordinance

From Julie R. Laut [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:11 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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

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Dear City Council members,

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. I urge you to for FOR the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

Thank you,
Julie Laut

[REDACTED] Urbana

PUBLIC INPUT

From C.L. Barbieri [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:14 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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

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Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for your attention on the issue of surveillance in Urbana. I urge you to vote in favor of the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance. It is vitally important to me as a resident of Urbana that we continue to protect our privacy and our rights as private citizens.

Thank you.
C.L. Barbieri

Please read into the record tonight.

From Paul Mueth [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:17 PM
To City Clerk <CityClerk@UrbanalL.gov>
Cc Christopher Evans [REDACTED]

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

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Greetings.

As there have been many additions and a few deletions to this ordinance submitted by the Police Department, there should be more opportunities for discussion, including by the community of this ordinance. I understand that it was on the agenda a number of times where for reasons of time it wasn't discussed.

Several items.

As there is a provision for council review after a year, I think any contract signed should have a provision for termination after a year or the term of trial period without penalty.

In section 6 regarding exigent circumstances the provision for any mayor designating their authority to anyone else to give a 30 day exception of the use or acquisition of surveillance equipment should be tied to the mayor's incapacity to serve at that time.

In this section there should also be a mention of using the CUMTD drone in case of a weather calamity or such explicitly cited in the law.

I see the crossing out of the last clause of Section 5 as allowing an NDA as part of a vendor contract.

This needs clarification.

I believe many on the council know building programs to empower people is a better way to reduce crime. Obviously the current federal government would prefer to fund more policing and surveillance. Hopefully any ordinance would ensure transparency as regards the kind of technology federal grants would pay for.

Thanks for your attention.

PUBLIC INPUT

From Carol Inskeep [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:17 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please vote to support the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance. The importance of protecting our privacy and our data becomes clearer everyday. I want our democratically elected representatives to guard the transparency and responsible use of this powerful technology.

Sincere thanks to the Mayor, city staff and City Council members who have worked to bring this forward.

PUBLIC INPUT: 3 Aug 2026 meeting

From David Young [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:22 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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*** Email From An External Source ***

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Please read my remarks into the record.

I live in Ward 1. I am writing to support the surveillance ordinance.
Passing the ordinance is an important first step that you can take to regulate surveillance in Urbana.

David

--

David Young
[REDACTED]

PUBLIC INPUT 8/3 SURVEILLANCE ORDINANCE

From Danielle Chynoweth [REDACTED]

Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:45 PM

To City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanalL.gov>; clerk@urbanailinois.us <clerk@urbanailinois.us>

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

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Clerk, Please read this email into the record tonight:

Dear City Council, Mayor and staff -

Thank you for voting on much needed democratic oversight of surveillance technology,

This action is modest but essential in an era where the speed and sophistication of surveillance technology is rapidly eclipsing democratic oversight and privacy protections. Basic constitutional rights of free speech and assembly are at stake. Personal and health care privacy. Immigrant rights, reproductive rights, and protection for survivors -- these all need your action.

I encourage a yes vote with the following provisions:

It appears the version of the ordinance in your packet does not close the loopholes you voted to close at your last meeting.

It is important that the ordinance cover sensitive surveillance technology (SSTI) only excluding identifying information about such technology. Also, if information is gathered improperly, a public reporting process shall be followed similar to Exigent circumstances.

best,
Danielle Chynoweth
Urbana, IL

Remaking Democracy: How We Make the Worlds We Want

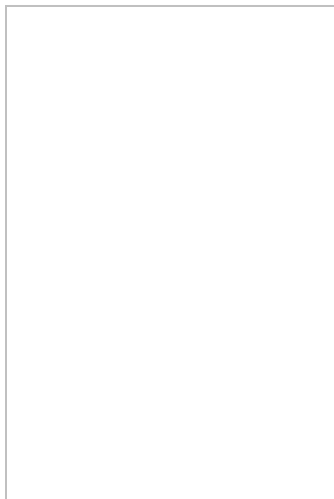
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We need to know how to do the work of social change; the guidebook for this change is *Remaking Democracy*.—**Safiya U. Noble**

The cookbook we need when democracy is in crisis.—**Kate McDowell**

A love letter to past, present, and future change makers.—**Anita Chan**

Remaking Democracy invites us to become active collaborators in reimagining, revolutionizing, and reconstructing new equitable democratic practices.—**Stacey A. Robinson**



PUBLIC INPUT - 8/3/26 - re Surveillance ordinance

From Stuart Levy [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 6:30 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>
Cc Stuart Levy [REDACTED]

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[And please read this aloud during the meeting.]

I'm Stuart Levy, living in Champaign.

In last week's discussion of the Surveillance ordinance, the question came up of whether social media monitoring should be included. One comment seemed to suggest that it wasn't much of an issue, if I understood it right. If there are people who mention on public social media that they've committed some crime, why would the council want to restrict police from using that information?

The problem - and the reason that I think it's worthwhile for the council to keep eyes on just how social media are used - is that there are wildly different ways of using the data from social media, and they aren't all as innocuous as spotting an isolated facebook posting that contains a confession. The Electronic Frontier Foundation, which looks into how technology influences privacy, writes about ways that social media monitoring can be misused:

<https://sfs.eff.org/technologies/social-media-monitoring>

I'll quote one paragraph of that, though it's worth reading in full:

"Although social media monitoring allows law enforcement to monitor thousands of accounts with the push of a single button, it is subject to extremely minimal oversight and transparency. It is also highly susceptible to misinterpretation. Since social media posts are highly contextual, police may misinterpret innocuous language, leading to severe consequences for individuals who may not have even been aware they were under surveillance. Police and prosecutors have also used Facebook photos, "likes," photos, and associations to make false allegations of criminal gang activity."

(end of quote).

When considering whether a technology puts the people of Urbana at risk, it's important to have a way to review, not just which isolated data sources might be used, but also the systems that are being used to draw conclusions from them.

**PUBLIC INPUT TO BE READ ALOUD INTO THE MEETING RECORD - CITY COUNCIL MEETING -
AUGUST 3, 2026**

From SN [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 6:46 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.gov>; City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.gov>

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

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Dear Mayor Williams and Members of the Urbana City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Surveillance Technology Oversight Ordinance and to encourage you to vote in favor of its adoption.

As surveillance technologies rapidly become increasingly sophisticated and more readily available, it is essential that our community have a transparent, accountable process for evaluating their use. This ordinance strikes an appropriate balance by ensuring that City departments can continue to acquire technologies when there is a legitimate public need, while requiring public disclosure, Council oversight, and an opportunity for residents to provide input before those technologies are approved. Such basic safeguards are critical to maintaining public trust and protecting the civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy of everyone who calls Urbana home.

I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Grace Wilken for her leadership and integrity throughout the development of this ordinance - and for her time serving on City Council. I have heard the recent public mentions that she will be stepping away from her role at some point, and although I do not know the details or timing, I wanted to thank her for her years of fiercely dedicated service to our community.

Grace has been a thoughtful and persistent advocate for transparent government and for policies that respect the rights and interests of Urbana residents. The time, care, and determination she has devoted to this effort - and to public service more broadly - are evident in the quality of this proposal and in the collaborative process that brought it before the Council. Public servants who are willing to engage deeply with difficult issues and listen to the community deserve recognition and distinction, and I am grateful for her work on behalf of Urbana.

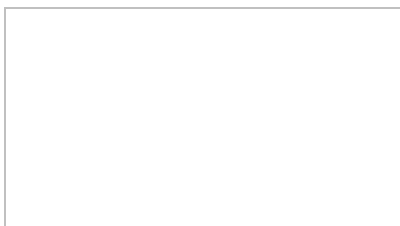
Thank you all for your service to our community and for your consideration of this ordinance. I hope you will vote to adopt it and continue Urbana's longstanding commitment to transparency, democratic oversight, and the protection of individual rights.

Sincerely,

Sarah Nixon

Sarah Nixon

FAMILY COURT REFORM ADVOCATE



PUBLIC INPUT 8/3/2026

From Glu [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 5:40 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@Urbanall.gov>

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

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Hi,

I would like to provide public input via email, as I will not be able to attend the session today in person.

My name is Usman Faridi. I live in Urbana for much of the year and am a student at UIUC. I would like to voice my opinion on the deployment of automatic license plate readers and general surveillance devices, particularly those made by Flock. While Urbana has not adopted these systems heavily yet, I urge the council to take proactive measures to ensure they are never integrated here.

As a student at a university known for its computer science program, I am deeply concerned about how massive surveillance technologies have been used to exploit communities. These have been linked to stalking, collaboration with ICE, and several other abuses that others have likely detailed in public comment.

Implementing policy to ban or strictly regulate such surveillance technology would be a vital service to our community. We need to ensure we remain safe from this kind of digital exploitation, both now and in the foreseeable future.

Thank you,
Usman Faridi

PUBLIC INPUT AUG 3, 2026

From Richard Detzner [REDACTED]
Date Mon 8/3/2026 6:47 PM
To City Council <CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.gov>

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Hello Urbana City Council,

I saw a notice from the ACLU that tonight you're voting "on an ordinance to give the public a voice in decisions about what surveillance equipment the City of Urbana leases or buys and what they can do with the personal data collected." I'm astounded this is even up for a vote. Is this a matter of the logistics involved in having the public weigh in? Or is the City Council actually asking whether it matters to us if the government spies on us, tracks our movements, checks to see who we associate with, who the information is either given to or sold to, and then who *they're* allowed to sell it to, all without a warrant, or probable cause of suspicion of any crime? In the current political environment in which the DOJ is targeting political enemies? And for supposed 'crime fighting' benefits that numerous studies have cast serious doubt on?

Am I misunderstanding something, or are you actually thinking there's an argument to be made *not* to have the public be able to weigh in on all of the above?

Thank you for giving this matter consideration. Please vote FOR the Surveillance Oversight Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Dick Detzner
Urbana, Illinois