11/15
D. Herrera
Better Waverly

TESTIMONY ON LO23-0379//23-0377
Facial Recognition Technology // Surveillance Technology - Procurement

TO: Chair McCray and members of the Health, Environment and Technology Committee [or] Chair Conway and members of the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee
FROM: D. Herrera.

My name is D. Herrera. I am a resident of District 14. I am submitting this testimony on 23-0379: Facial Recognition Technology [or] 23-0377: Surveillance Technology - Procurement

I was not born and raised in Baltimore. As the child of immigrants, my lived experience spans Texas, Pennsylvania and New York before arriving to Baltimore. Everywhere I have lived and visited, I have been exposed to new ideas, new information, new cultures, new belief and value systems. I've also fundamentally been exposed to new faces. Every time I have met someone new, I've had the opportunity to challenge any previous belief I may have held, knowingly or not. Racial bias, and racial discrimination are massive and blaring issues that are not addressed by Facial Recognition Technology. Privacy is not protected under Facial Recognition Technologies, there is no informed consent. These harms are allowed to continue given the unethical nature of Facial Recognition Technology.

As someone who has worked with children in public schools, as well as individuals navigating substance use addiction in Baltimore, I recognize how much our faces can change given our mood, the circumstances we find ourselves in, the amount of sleep we got, and whether we were exposed to an adversity, and whether we have eaten or had water that day. Facial Recognition Technology cannot keep up safe, it cannot know our circumstances or experience. It only knows data entry and data output. There are numerous ethical concerns related to facial recognition systems; racial bias and misinformation, racial discrimination in law enforcement, privacy, lack of informed consent and transparency, mass surveillance, data breaches, and inefficient legal support to name a few. Black people in Baltimore face overwhelming disparities at every single stage of the criminal punishment system, from street-level surveillance and profiling all the way through to sentencing and conditions of confinement. FRT would undoubtedly be used more in Black and Brown neighborhoods than in predominantly white neighborhoods.

Closing: **Study after study shows that FRT does not make us safer.** Facial recognition and other

surveillance technologies will heighten discrimination in policing, especially as law enforcement agencies continue to make misinformed decisions around arrest and detainment that disproportionately impact marginalized populations. **FRT and invasive surveillance technology has no place in Baltimore– we need strong guardrails to limit its use.**