



SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

City Council Resolution: 22-0122R

Informational Hearing - Public Safety and Surveillance Technology

Sponsor: Councilmember Burnett, et al

Introduced: August 15, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of Law, the Baltimore Police Department, the Department of Finance, and other interested parties to discuss the acquisition and use of facial recognition surveillance technology by Baltimore City government, how data from such equipment is used and stored, and any liability the City may face if the technology or its data is misused.

Effective: Upon enactment

AGENCY REPORTS

Police Department	
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement	
Mayor's Office of Information Technology	
Department of Finance	
City Solicitor	Favorable

ANALYSIS

The resolution invites the agencies and other interested parties to discuss the acquisition and use of facial recognition surveillance technology by Baltimore City government, how data from such equipment is used and stored, and any liability the City may face if the technology or its data is misused.

Article 5 (Finance, Property, and Procurement), Section 41-4 of the Baltimore City Code prohibits the City from purchasing or otherwise obtaining any face surveillance systems or contracting with any other entity or individual for the use of face surveillance in the City.

Article 19 (Police Ordinances), Section 18-2 of the Baltimore City Code prohibits any person from obtaining, retaining, accessing, or using in Baltimore City any face surveillance system or any information obtained from a face surveillance system. A violation of Article 19, Section 18-2 is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of no more than \$1,000, imprisonment for no more than 12 months, or both a fine and imprisonment.

Article 5, Section 41-4 and Article 19, Section 18-2 were enacted on August 9, 2021 (Ordinance 21-038). Both provisions will automatically expire on December 31, 2022, unless the City Council, after causing an appropriate study to be undertaken, conducting public hearings, and hearing testimonial evidence, finds that the prohibitions and related requirements remain in the public interest, in which case the provisions may be extended for 5 more years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Fiscal Note: None

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Code, Reporting Agencies, Resolution 22-0122R.



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