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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead – Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Honorable Mark Conway  
CHAIR

### HEARING NOTES

*LO25-0042*  
*AI Surveillance in Schools*

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**Hearing Date:** 1/13/2026  
**Hearing Start Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Hearing End Time:** 2:30 PM  
**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex  
**Total Estimated Attendance:** 30

**Committee Members in Attendance:**

- **Chair** Mark Conway
  - **Vice Chair** Zac Blanchard
  - Paris Gray
  - Phylicia Porter
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### **MAJOR SPEAKERS**

*(This is NOT an attendance record.)*

- Monique Roumo – Executive Director of Operations, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Chad Ellis – Major, Baltimore City School Police
  - Lynette Washington – Chief Operating Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Alison Perkins-Cohen – Chief of Staff, Baltimore City Public Schools
  - Chanae Tynes – Senior Project Manager: Strategy and Compliance, Baltimore City Public Schools
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### **NOTES**

- Chair Conway began the hearing with some opening remarks
  - Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) recently integrated an AI surveillance system
  - The speed at which it is being integrated is great
  - We are not sufficiently equipped to address these challenges
  - The federal administration has made state and local regulations difficult
  - School officials are doing the best they can
  - What mechanisms exist to fact check vendors' claims
- BCPS introduced its team and began its presentation
  - Goal was to improve safety without creating a surveillance environment
  - The system is not used as AI surveillance, it is used solely for detection on a person at a point of entry

- NOT facial recognition or to identify any sort of information on students
- 3 pillars of school safety
  - Emotional
  - School police
  - Physical building safety
- Prior to implementation of weapons detection
  - More than half of students felt unsafe and students experienced significant delays to enter school buildings
- Pilot program
  - Core purpose was to inform about the feasibility and usability of the system
  - Wanted to test for themselves whether provider claims about weapons detection were accurate
  - Competitive vendor evaluation and stakeholder engagement led to the ultimate decision
- FAQs
  - Not using Evolv to conduct facial recognition
  - Staff conduct searches of bags, if they are the subject of an alert
  - When a firearm/weapon is detected
    - Immediate measures – isolation of individual
    - Law enforcement involvement
    - Secure the weapon
- Performance metrics
  - System processes about 14,000 morning entries every day
  - About 30% of entries trigger alerts, the vast majority are benign items (cans, laptops, eyeglass cases, etc.)
  - School year 24-25 – no guns detected
  - This year, only one (a BB gun)
- Post-implementation
  - Students and staff generally prefer the scanners to metal detectors
- Ongoing commitment
  - Ongoing trainings and monitoring of industry standards
- BPD – school police are the primary responders to incidents in schools
- Questions
  - Chair Conway
    - Thanks school system for making an opportunity for him to view the system
      - It is an enormous rush to get students in the door in the morning
    - Procurement of the system
      - During the pilot, how did BCPS assess standards it wanted to meet? Did we assess the AI component
        - Not a comparison prior to timing of getting students in vs. metal detectors but students feel they are getting in faster
        - On detection – this system provides a sense of where items are
          - This also addresses some perceived bias that came up with metal detectors, we see exactly where to go
        - The only AI component evaluated was the detection piece and it performed as expected



- Will follow up on whether it is in policy but was in procurement
  - In other places, looking for weapons has turned into AI surveillance
  - When/if the policy were to change, please explain how
    - Right now that feature is not part of the system
    - Should that change, there would be a public process to discuss those changes
  - Should it ever happen, we ask that you come to the council
  - Before the technology was implemented, how many weapons were found by metal detectors and/or school police
- Chair Conway
  - When we did the pilot, did we ever intend to use the AI?
    - No – it was always intended that we use the weapons detection portion, it was never intended to be used for surveillance, cameras, or facial recognition
  - If you have a plastic weapon, it is still a weapon – are these being captured
    - The system looks at density and proximity
  - The procurement meeting agenda for the school board suggests that the system screens faster than metal detectors and differentiate metal items from weapons
  - Do we go to evolve and say that the system doesn't do exactly what we thought we bought
    - If it is just a slightly more advanced metal detection system, did we overpay?
  - Do we have the sophistication in our procurement system to identify whether it can do what the providers says
    - There is not a perfect detection system
  - Did we learn of the FTC investigation before or after awarding the contract
    - After
  - Do we have recourse with Evolv?
    - School systems went in with expectations that are being met by the system
  - The system does roughly what we need to do to ensure safety in our schools
  - But that does not mean it is a good contract
  - Does the FTC investigation change what we paid for, should we have paid so much
- CM Porter
  - Where is Evolv data being stored?
    - We have a cloud-based platform hosted by Evolv
      - There is no student information just volume of entries and alerts
  - Is there a written policy regarding on prevention/safeguards to prevent violations of students constitutional rights including unreasonable searches and discriminatory impacts
  - What is the timeframe on independent audits of Evolv
    - Conducted during the school year and more intensive during the spring
  - Provide a copy of 2024 evaluation assessment
- CM Gray
  - Who has access to cloud based data/
    - On BCPS side only the administrative team has access to the information for BCPS only
  - Could city schools publish a clear data use and retention statement?

- How long is data retained?
    - BCPS will concur with chief legal officer on that point
  - Are frequent miss-hits being shared with Evolv to refine their system?
    - Yes – items that frequently miss-hit are reported and use to train the Evolv system for evolve quarterly updates
- Chair Conway
  - Are photos saved or is it only metadata about something being identified and tagged?
    - Photos are retained for a period of time
- CM Porter
  - Data collection and confidential information article in contract
    - Can Evolv share data with other entities
    - On use of confidential information – Evolv can share information with permission from Baltimore City Public Schools
- Chair Conway
  - On sole source, we piggybacked on contract from UVA
    - Piggyback contract is a mechanism of using the same contract, so long as it meets the needs
    - We use piggyback if it has gone through a competitive bid process
      - There is also a thorough legal review
  - Staff man the terminal and tablet during school intake
  - How many people operate the process and how does that compare to a traditional metal detection system?
    - Evolv requires two people per system, some schools use more to get students in even faster
    - Evolv requires more staff to monitor the screen/tablet
- CM Porter
  - Why are there redactions
    - Legal determinations – happy to discuss any concerns offline

***FURTHER STUDY REQUESTED***

Request	From	Agency
Detail, over the two years prior to the intallation Evolv systems, how many firearms were identified by metal detectors and/or school police?	Gray	BCPS
Detail whether any other weapons been identified by school police or another non-Evolv system after entering the building through an Evolv system?	Gray	BCPS
Share contractual language regarding data use agreements between Evolv and Baltimore City Public Schools	Porter	BCPS
Share written protocol on prevention/safeguards to prevent violations of students constitutional rights including unreasonable searches and discriminatory impacts	Porter	BCPS
Provide copy of 2024 Evolv evaluation assessment	Porter	BCPS

Provide data use statement regarding how City Schools Evolv data is used and whether it can/will be shared with other jurisdictions	Gray	BCPS
Address whether Evolv can share aggregated or deaggregated data with any companies with the permission of Baltimore City Public Schools (given page 13, Section D of the agreement between Baltimore City Public Schools and Evolv).	Porter	BCPS

- Hearing Packet in bill file? -----**  **YES**  **NO**  **N/A**  
**Attendance Sheet in bill file? -----**  **YES**  **NO**  **N/A**  
**Agency reports read? -----**  **YES**  **NO**  **N/A**  
**Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? -----**  **YES**  **NO**  **N/A**  
**Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file? -----**  **YES**  **NO**  **N/A**  
**Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? -----**  **YES**  **NO**  **N/A**

Notes by: Ethan Navarre  
Notes Date: 1/13/2026

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