

MEMO FROM	
	<b>NAME &amp; TITLE</b> Todd A. Carter Chief Information Officer (CIO) <i>Todd A. Carter</i>
<b>AGENCY NAME &amp; ADDRESS</b>	Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology (BCIT) 401 E Fayette Street, 3rd Floor Baltimore, MD 21202
<b>SUBJECT</b>	City of Baltimore Surveillance Technology Acquisitions FY 2021

TO: The Honorable President and  
 Members of the City Council  
 Room 400 City Hall  
 c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

October 19, 2022

The Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology (BCIT) is submitting the enclosed report as required by Ordinance 21-038. This ordinance requires that BCIT, in consultation with other agencies, submit a report to the Mayor and City Council regarding the use of surveillance by the Mayor and City Council detailing:

- (1) each purchase of surveillance technology during FY21, disaggregated by the purchasing agency; and
- (2) an explanation of the use of the surveillance technology.

If you have any questions, please contact Leyla Layman, BCIT's Chief of Staff, at (443) 202-4511.

Enclosure

cc:

Director Natasha Mehu, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*  
 Deputy Director Nina Themelis, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*  
 Commissioner Michael Harrison, *Baltimore Police Department*  
 Director Michael Moiseyev, *Department of Finance*  
 Director Steve Sharkey, *Department of Transportation*  
 City Councilman Zeke Cohen, *District 1*  
 City Councilwoman Danielle McCray, *District 2*  
 City Councilman Ryan Dorsey, *District 3*  
 City Councilman Mark Conway, *District 4*  
 City Councilman Isaac Schleifer, *District 5*  
 City Councilwoman Sharon Green Middleton, *District 6*  
 City Councilman James Torrence, *District 7*  
 City Councilman Kristerfer Burnett, *District 8*  
 City Councilman John T. Bullock, *District 9*  
 City Councilwoman Phylcia Porter, *District 10*  
 City Councilman Eric Costello, *District 11*  
 City Councilman Robert Stokes, Sr., *District 12*  
 City Councilman Antonio Glover, *District 13*  
 City Councilwoman Odette Ramos, *District 14*



## **FY2021 City of Baltimore Surveillance Technology Acquisitions Report**

In accordance with Ordinance 21-038, the Baltimore City Office of Information & Technology (BCIT) has prepared the following report regarding the use of surveillance by the Mayor and City Council. This report is comprised of new purchases, as well as renewals of existing surveillance technology, where there was purchase order or release issued during Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21).<sup>1</sup> To prepare this report, a keyword search using the term “surveillance” was conducted in CitiBuy, the purchasing software used by City agencies during FY21. Furthermore, BCIT consulted with the Baltimore Police Department and the Department of Transportation as they were originally referred Council Bill 21-001 which became Ordinance 21-038. While the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement was also referred that bill, they were not consulted in preparation of this report as oversight of the CitiWatch program was transferred to BCIT.

### **Purchasing Agency: Baltimore City Office of Information Technology**

No surveillance technology purchased in FY21.

### **Purchasing Agency: Baltimore Police Department**

#### **GPS Trackers**

GPS trackers are devices that can be attached to various objects and report back on their location in real time or based on a preprogrammed schedule. By policy, all GPS trackers owned and used by the BPD are administered by the Special Activities Unit (SAU). The SAU is tasked with ensuring that no GPS trackers are accessible or deployed unless judicial authorization has been obtained, typically a signed search and seizure warrant. 20 GPS trackers were purchased.

#### **Sytech**

A hardware/software suite used to administer various telephonic surveillance methods to include pen registers and Title III investigations. This is a yearly maintenance contract for ongoing service. This surveillance is used pursuant to a search warrant or Title III authorization from the judiciary. In extremely rare circumstances, the surveillance is initiated for an exigent circumstance where awaiting court process would lead to death or serious injury. The exigent circumstances are usually related to kidnapping and hostage situations. Access to the system is controlled by the Special Activities Unit and regularly monitored to defend against abuse.

#### **Cellebrite**

A hardware/software suite used to conduct digital forensics on mobile devices such as cell phones, tablets, and portable media. Examination of a device can only occur with a signed search warrant, consent of the phone's owner, exigent circumstances, or other legally established exemptions to the search warrant requirement. To defend against abuse, all examinations conducted by the Special Activities Unit are conducted in an open office environment with supervisors on hand to monitor the work of detectives.

---

<sup>1</sup> Fiscal Year 2021 began July 1, 2020 and ended June 30, 2021.

**Axiom**

A hardware/software suite used to conduct digital forensics on computers and computer hardware such as hard drives and SSDs. Examination can only be conducted upon receipt of a signed search warrant or under legally established exemptions to the search warrant requirement. All examinations are conducted in an open office environment to deter and detect any abuses of the technology.

**Crossfire**

A software system used to record the footage obtained from pole cameras. Crossfire is used to allow primary detectives to view and save the footage from these deployed cameras for later prosecution. All footage is saved on a BPD server housed at a BCIT facility. Access to the footage and verification of the camera's deployments are controlled by the Special Activities Unit for monitoring and auditing.

**Body Worn Camera Subscription**

Body worn cameras are used to record interactions between community members (e.g. the public, suspects, and victims) and law enforcement officers. Axon provides a subscription service for preservation of audio-visual data captured by law enforcement officers. The cost is \$165k for 6 years of service.

**License Plate Reader (LPR)**

In FY21, the BPD purchased 5 sets of Mobile License Plate Readers. License Plate Reader (LPR) technology provides Maryland law enforcement with automated detection of a vehicle's license plate as they pass the reader. The LPR system consists of a high-speed camera, mounted on a mobile patrol vehicle, and a computer to convert data from electronic images of vehicle license plates into a readable format, and then compare the information against specified databases of license plates. The system attaches camera identification, date, time, and location information, to include GPS coordinates, to the digital image and it is maintained electronically in a central location to provide a means of ensuring the license plate number was properly converted. The digital image can include additional information such as:

- The vehicle's make and model
- The vehicle's driver and passengers
- Distinguishing features (e.g., bumper stickers, damage)
- State of registration

If a given plate is listed in the database, the system is capable of providing the vehicle's location, direction of travel, and the type of infraction related to the notification. This technology allows BPD detectives investigating violent crime to enhance their ability to detect and apprehend violent offenders and reduce violent crime in the City.

**Microception Interview Room System and Axon Cameras**

In FY21, BPD installed the Microception Interview Room system in eight districts (all police districts except the Central District/Sun Building). One room in each district was outfitted with two cameras. The rooms were implemented for the District Detective Units to conduct interviews at their location. Detective Units had been decentralized and were now working out of the districts.

Also, in FY21, six rooms in the Sun Building were outfitted with two cameras each. These are part of the Axon system and the video is stored in evidence.com.

**Purchasing Agency: Department of Transportation**

No surveillance technology purchased in FY21.

## **Purchasing Agency: Mayor's Office on Criminal Justice (MOCJ)<sup>2</sup>**

### **CitiWatch Camera Repair and Maintenance**

CitiWatch is the City of Baltimore's Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Camera Network of over 750 cameras throughout the City used to support public safety and emergency management strategies. In FY21, MOCJ initiated twelve purchases for the maintenance and repair of CitiWatch cameras and their supporting infrastructure that totaled \$695,000. There were 7 purchases made totaling \$683,000 to procure the hardware and installation of 25 new cameras. The support agreement for the Flir Video Management System, which provides management and recording of the video operations for CitiWatch cameras, was purchased for \$25,000.

### **License Plate Reader (LPR)**

MOCJ purchased the repair and maintenance of LPR<sup>3</sup> hardware at a cost of \$27,000.

---

<sup>2</sup> During FY21, MOCJ was replaced by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (MONSE). Effective July 1, 2022, oversight of the CitiWatch program transitioned to BCIT.

<sup>3</sup> See BPD section for a description of LPR software.