To whom it may concern,

I am writing today as a citizen of Baltimore City in opposition of facial recognition technology being implemented by the city. Using facial recognition technology reinforces racial bias as there are numerous studies that have proven the accuracy of facial recognition technologies to be faulty, the least accurate being for darker skinned females between the ages of 18-40 (conducted by a gender shades audit).

The racial bias inherent in this technology has serious consequences when implemented by companies regarding employment, housing programs and of course, police departments. Facial recognition technologies use mugshot databases which are predominantly comprised of black people, creating a negative feedback loop of the systemic racism already inherent in police departments as black people are more likely to be arrested as well as charged for minor crimes in comparison to white people. These programs could be used to target other marginalized communities as well like immigrants by ICE.

Fundamentally, this technology is a violation of privacy and inhibits freedom of expression, which is more relevant than ever as people take to the streets in movements like Black Lives Matter and Palestinian liberation, calling for a much needed ceasefire. In conclusion, facial recognition technology is an infringement on the fundamental rights of American citizens that negatively effects the disenfranchised, I do not approve of implementation of such technology by any department of Baltimore City.

Thank you for your consideration

Emily Snow