

2024 Surveillance Technology Annual Report

Submitted by the Mayor's Office on January 23, 2025
Revised version submitted April 24, 2025

Pursuant to Sec. 10-66 of Article III of Chapter 10 of the Somerville Code of Ordinances

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Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Planning, Preservation & Zoning
Compliance Officer:	Alan Inacio, Senior Accountant, OSPCD
Submitted by:	Dan Bartman, Interim Director of Planning, Preservation, & Zoning
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Video/Photography Drone

- 1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:**

The drone has been used to take pictures and videos focused on public spaces, and street intersections. Drone footage is recorded only from 100 ft or higher, so no sound of conversations of any kind is captured. Images and videos include residents only if they are in public spaces and in most cases, they are not identifiable due to the distance.

- 2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:**

No data from the drone has been shared with law enforcement or any other entity outside of OSPCD.

- 3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:**

None

- 4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:**

None

- 5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:**

Yes. The videos and images collected have been a helpful resource in OSPCD's planning efforts.

- 6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:**

None

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

Training of a new pilot will be necessary in the coming year but then only staff time in utilizing it.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

Since the purpose of this technology is not to track individuals in any capacity or to be utilized in any law enforcement effort, and since this technology has been used consistent with the stated purpose and with the City's Surveillance Technology Use Policy to capture aerial-view images of public spaces for planning purposes, we do not believe this technology has a negative impact on the civil rights and liberties of individuals or groups.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

None

Parking Department

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Parking Department, Compliance
Compliance Officer:	Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Parking
Submitted by:	Suzanne Rinfret, Director of Parking
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Safety Stick

- 1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:**

The technology is used to take images of the vehicle parking in an illegal space. The picture captures the vehicle and plate, there are no clear pictures of people in the surrounding area

- 2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:**

The technology is not shared with any local, state or federal entity.

- 3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:**

There have been no complaints regarding the use of the technology other than disgruntled constituents that have received parking violations for parking illegally.

- 4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:**

There have been none.

- 5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:**

The technology has been effective, we are seeing more compliance in the 4 areas where the Safety Sticks have been deployed. There are 16 total Safety Sticks at select bus stops, bus lanes and crosswalks in Davis Square and Magoun Square. The Safety Sticks contribute to our Vision Zero goals by allowing the bus to pull up to the curb rather than stopping in the lane of traffic; allowing safe passage on/off busses; allowing full vision for drivers to see pedestrians in the crosswalk to avoid hitting anyone; and allowing the bus to travel smoothly through the square which increases reliability of public transportation.

6. **The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:**

To date there have been no public record requests.

7. **An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

The work to review tickets is already being done by employees of the city. No increase in staff is required. There is no ongoing cost to the city.

8. **Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

No civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups have been disproportionately impacted.

9. **A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

No agreements with anyone have been made.

Somerville Fire Department

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Fire Department
Compliance Officer:	Chief Charles Breen
Submitted by:	Chief Charles Breen
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	FLIR MC300C Marine Camera

- 1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:**

The cameras provide live information only. They are used for Fire Department operations only and not for surveillance purposes. The camera was documented as being used twice in the report period (1/1/24 – 12/31/24). Both uses were for fire department training.

- 2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:**

No data is collected or stored. It is viewable only to the user at the time of use. No data is stored or transmitted to any other party.

- 3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:**

None

- 4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:**

None

- 5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:**

Yes. The cameras are a great benefit to the Department. Fortunately, there were no night responses for the Marine Unit in 2024. But had there been, this technology would have allowed us to navigate quickly and safely in the darkness. This technology is a great tool to avoid collisions and make night operations on the water safe.

- 6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:**

None

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

No costs have been incurred during the report period for this camera.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

Since the technology is not intended for law enforcement purposes or intelligence gathering, does not store data, and is only deployed in emergency response situations where it is deemed necessary to protect life or property, we do not believe this technology has a negative impact on the civil rights and liberties of individuals or groups.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

N/A

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Fire Department
Compliance Officer:	Chief Charles Breen
Submitted by:	Chief Charles Breen
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Thermal Imaging Cameras

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

The cameras provide live information only. They are used for Fire Department operations only and not for surveillance purposes. The cameras were documented as being used during 262 responses in the report period (1/1/24 – 12/31/24). All uses were for fire department related activities.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

No data is collected or stored. It is viewable only to the user at the time of use. No data is stored or transmitted to any other party.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

None

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

None

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Yes. The cameras are a great benefit to the Department. This technology provides firefighters with the ability to “see” in conditions where visibility is compromised or non-existent. It allows them to operate more safely. These cameras also help firefighters identify hidden hot spots or embers that may not be otherwise visible to the naked eye. Detecting these hidden heat sources prevent a fire from reigniting.

- 6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:**

None

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

The purchase of two replacement batteries and the purchase of one retractable lanyard resulted in a \$2,105.96 cost to the Department which was covered by budgeted funds.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

Since the technology is not intended for law enforcement purposes or intelligence gathering, does not store data, and is only deployed in emergency response situations where it is deemed necessary to protect life or property, we do not believe this technology has a negative impact on the civil rights and liberties of individuals or groups.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

N/A

Somerville Police Department

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Advanced/Next Gen 911

- 1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:**

This technology has been used to provide emergency services to individuals who have initiated a 911 call. For a landline 911 call, Advanced/Next Gen 911 has provided the name/s of the individual/s who procured the landline and its location. For Cellular based 911 calls, Advanced/Next Gen 911 has provided callers locations based on cell tower locations. During the course of the previous year, we have also requested cellular providers ping subscribers phones to get a more accurate location of the caller. The reasons for these requests include the fact that the caller may be in imminent danger, the caller is a potential suicide risk, or the caller is the victim of an ongoing crime. The texting feature of the 911 system also allows access to the location of the phone that sent a 911 text. This technology does not capture images and does record the voice communications of the caller and the E911 operator.

- 2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:**

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, E911 audio recordings were shared a total of 488 times with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office to assist in the prosecution of criminal and/or civil cases originating in Somerville. The data was shared pursuant to the Massachusetts Rules of Evidence.

- 3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:**

None.

- 4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:**

None.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Advanced/Next Gen 911 has been highly effective in helping the SPD provide Emergency Services.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

From July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, there were 34 public records requests for E911 tapes.

7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:

The E911 services budget from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 was \$2,043,687. Funding for E911 technology services and personnel is obtained from a variety of sources to include direct municipal funding and various state grants.

8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:

None.

9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Covert Device Cameras

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

Covert device cameras are hidden in household devices such as an alarm clock, smoke detector or computer speaker. These cameras may also be used in public areas. Under current law a warrant would be required for these devices if they captured entrances to homes and other places where there would be an expectation of privacy. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 the SPD did not use any covert device cameras.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

Technology was not used.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

Technology was not used.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

Technology was not used.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Technology was not used.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

Technology was not used.

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

Technology was not used.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

Technology was not used.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	GLX Cameras

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

There are 4 GLX Cameras affixed to traffic poles throughout the city. These cameras are owned and operated by the City of Somerville and were initially procured in order to monitor traffic conditions related to the GLX construction project. These cameras are used to monitor traffic and if applicable investigate crimes committed within the city. These cameras capture video only, with no audio capture capabilities.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

The SPD did not share data from GLX Security cameras.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

No complaints.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

None.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Technology has been effective in monitoring traffic, investigating motor vehicle accidents and investigating crimes.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 there was 1 public records request for GLX/Homeland security cameras.

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

The only costs associated with the GLX cameras is when a camera needs to be moved. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 no cameras were moved.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

None.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	GPS and Monitor

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

GPS monitors are placed into “bait” bikes or packages. This type of technology is deployed in times of upticks in bicycle or package thefts. The GPS tracks the stolen item leading police to its location and the individual(s) who stole the property. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 the SPD did not use any GPS and monitor devices.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

Technology was not used.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

Technology was not used.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

Technology was not used.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Technology was not used.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

Technology was not used.

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

Technology was not used.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

Technology was not used.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Grey Key

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

The Somerville Police Department currently owns a License for the GreyKey DFAT. The devices accessed would only be accessed in accordance with a duly issued search warrant or consent from the owner of the device. The type of data extracted from the digital devices includes, but is not limited to, digital pictures, videos, text messages, call logs and any other data which would normally be stored on a digital device which could be used in a criminal investigation.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, GreyKey software was utilized to recover evidence in 33 Criminal Investigations on a total of 38 devices. The data obtained from these devices has been shared with the Middlesex District Attorneys Office, Massachusetts State Police, Medford Police and Cambridge Police. The type of data disclosed includes digital pictures, videos, text messages, call logs and any other data which would normally be stored on a digital device which could be used in a criminal investigation. This information was obtained and disclosed under a valid search warrant or consent from the device owner in the furtherance of criminal investigations.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

No complaints.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

None.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Technology was effective in accessing devices with either a valid search warrant or consent from the owner of the device. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, GreyKey software was utilized to recover evidence, pursuant to a search warrant or consent, in 33 Criminal Investigations on a total of 38 devices.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

None.

7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:

None.

8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:

None.

9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Homeland Security Cameras

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

There are approximately 30 working Homeland Security Cameras affixed to traffic poles throughout the city. These cameras are owned and operated by the City of Somerville and were initially procured with funding from the federal government. These cameras are used to investigate crimes and monitor roadways in the case of a public emergency. These cameras capture video only, with no audio capture capabilities.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

The SPD received 37 requests for Homeland Security Camera footage from the District Attorney's Office, Medford Police and Massachusetts State Police. All 37 requests were for video footage and were directly related to criminal investigations. The data was shared pursuant to the Massachusetts Rules of Evidence.

1. Middlesex District Attorney – Video Footage – 35 Criminal Investigations
2. Medford Police – Video Footage – 1 Criminal Investigation
3. Massachusetts State Police – Video Footage – 1 Criminal Investigation

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

No complaints.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

None.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Technology has been effective in monitoring traffic, investigating motor vehicle accidents and investigating crimes.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 there was 1 public records request for Homeland Security/GLX video footage.

7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:

The only costs associated with the Homeland Security cameras is when a camera needs to be moved. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 no cameras were moved.

8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:

None.

9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Pole Cameras

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

Pole cameras are fixed position, stand-alone cameras that are used during the course of an investigation. Pole cameras are installed in public areas where there is no expectation of privacy. These cameras capture video only, with no audio capture capabilities. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, the SPD upgraded some existing Homeland Security Cameras and 2 older cameras were converted to pole cameras for potential use during criminal investigations. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 the SPD used Pole cameras on a total of 4 investigations.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024, video data from one investigation was shared with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office pursuant to a criminal prosecution. Data was shared in accordance with the Massachusetts Rules of Evidence.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

No complaints were received.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

None.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

Technology was effective. Suspects were identified during the course of three investigations which resulted in the filing of criminal charges in one case.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

None.

7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:

All costs associated with this technology are covered by UASI.

8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:

None.

9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	ShotSpotter

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

ShotSpotter is a gunshot detection service that utilizes 35 sensors installed in the city's coverage area to identify and locate gunfire. Sensors detect noises suggestive of gunshot and trigger only when 3 different sensors detect a gunshot-like sound at the same time to determine location. ShotSpotter records gunshot-like sounds and does not record video.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 we received 22 ShotSpotter activation notices. The ShotSpotter detection information was shared with Middlesex District Attorney's Office to assist in the prosecution of criminal cases. The data was shared pursuant to the Massachusetts Rules of Evidence.

Note: When a ShotSpotter Activation occurs and is confirmed, that information is included in our weekly crime bulletin, which is supplied to surrounding Police Departments.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

No complaints received.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

No internal audits conducted.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

The identified purpose of the ShotSpotter Technology is to provide the SPD with an early alert for gunshots detected within the designated geographical monitoring area. During the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024 we received 22 ShotSpotter alerts. Ballistic evidence was recovered during the course of 4 investigations related to ShotSpotter alerts. ShotSpotter has been effective in achieving its identified purpose.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

There were 0 public records requests received for ShotSpotter data during the time period of July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024.

7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:

ShotSpotter is paid for by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI).

8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:

None.

9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:

None.

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:

The Boston Police Department (BPD) demonstrated the use of a UAS to the SPD Jr. Police Academy. The UAS has the ability to capture video data. Although the UAS does have the capability to record video data and to be accessed remotely, both of these functions were deactivated during the demonstration. It is the responsibility of the SPD Superior officer who is overseeing the Jr. Police Academy to ensure these functions are deactivated.

2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:

No data was collected or shared.

3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:

No complaints received.

4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:

No internal audits conducted.

5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:

The identified purpose of the UAS is to provide a demonstration for Junior Police Academy attendees. The UAS was effective in achieving its identified purpose.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

None.

- 7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:**

None.

- 8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:**

None.

- 9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:**

None.

Somerville Public Schools

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Somerville Public Schools
Compliance Officer:	Dr. Ruben Carmona, Superintendent of Schools
Submitted by:	Richard Melillo, Special Assistant Operations
Date:	1/23/25
Surveillance Technology:	Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System (GIASDS)

- 1. A description of how surveillance technology has been used, including whether it captured images, sound, or information regarding members of the public who are not suspected of engaging in unlawful conduct:**

The Guardian Indoor Active Shooter Detection System is a dual-mode system of sensors; 10 sensors placed strategically throughout Somerville High School that detects gunfire and reports that a gunshot has occurred immediately to all registered members of the notification system. GIASDS detects an acoustic bang and infrared flash of gunfire, which eliminates false alerts to other sounds in the environment. GIASDS has no ability to record human voice and the GIASDS installed at SHS has no capability to capture images. The GIASDS device itself is currently active and key staff are receiving notifications via text and email.

- 2. Whether and how often data acquired through the use of the surveillance technology was shared with local, state, and federal, the name of any recipient entity, the type(s) of data disclosed, any legal standard(s) under which the information was disclosed, and the justification for the disclosure:**

No information was shared with any other local, state, or federal entity.

- 3. A summary of community complaints or concerns about the surveillance technology, if any:**

Somerville Public Schools has not received any complaints or concerns regarding GIASDS from the community.

- 4. The results of any internal audits, any information about violations of the surveillance use policy, and any actions taken in response other than to the extent that such inclusion would violate the privacy rights of an employee of the city:**

No incidents have occurred that would violate the privacy rights of City employees or surveillance use policy.

- 5. Whether the surveillance technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose:**

The purpose of this technology is to detect gunshots. No gunshot events have occurred that are a threat to student safety.

6. The number of public records requests received by the city seeking documents concerning surveillance technology approved during the previous year:

The city has not received any public records requests related to this technology.

7. An estimate of the total annual costs for the surveillance technology, including personnel and other ongoing costs, and what source(s) of funding will fund the technology in the coming year, if known:

There are no maintenance fees for the first 5 years. This coverage is from 2022-2027. Once the free maintenance fee window expires, SPS will fund the annual maintenance fee of approximately \$2,500.

8. Whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities in the city are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the surveillance technology:

The GIASDS Technology does not affect the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups, including communities of color or other marginalized communities. The GIASDS is simply a dual mode shooter detection system that responds to high decibel sound and infrared muzzle flash. provides.

9. A disclosure of any new agreements made in the past 12 months with non-city entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using surveillance technology or the surveillance data it provides:

There are no new SPS agreements with any non-city entities.