

## **Somerville Fire Department**

<b>Division or Unit (if applicable):</b>	Fire Department
<b>Compliance Officer:</b>	Chief Charles Breen
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chief Charles Breen
<b>Date:</b>	1/13/25 (revised 4/15/25)
<b>Surveillance Technology:</b>	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

<b>Division or Unit (if applicable):</b>	Fire Department
<b>Compliance Officer:</b>	Chief Charles Breen
<b>Submitted by:</b>	Chief Charles Breen
<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Surveillance Technology:</b>	Fire Station Exterior 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:**

Camera installation is in progress and has not been completed. Cameras are not yet in operation.

- 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:**

N/A

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

N/A

- 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:**

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

- 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:**

N/A

- 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:**

N/A

- 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