

APPENDIX B: CITY OF SOMERVILLE ANNUAL SURVEILLANCE REPORT

Division or Unit (if applicable):	Police Department
Compliance Officer:	Capt. S. Sheehan
Submitted by:	Chief Shumeane Benford
Date:	2/19/25
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