

Madalyn Letellier

From: Tamara Grasty [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 5:57 PM
To: Public Comments
Subject: Mayor Wilson's Plan on Somerville's Surveillance Budget

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express concern about Mayor Wilson's plan to accept federal funding in collaboration with DHS. I live at 112 Broadway in Somerville and I oppose this budget plan.

BRIC creates both formal and informal pathways for the Boston Police Department to pass data along to ICE—from networks of surveillance technology, to various taskforces, to a host of databases containing sensitive information. Through BRIC and Massachusetts' state fusion center, ICE has access to fingerprints and other personal data like license plate information and alleged gang membership.

I believe there need to be more protections to keep this kind of data from ICE and DHS and I oppose any budget which would require Somerville to cooperate with these organizations.

BRIC's critics warn that the center is already funneling data to the federal government, and some local officials are nervous that doubling down on the grant means collaboration could escalate further. A number of police departments in the Boston area upload sensitive information to COPLINK, a database maintained by the state fusion center that an investigative arm of ICE, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), has direct access to.

I would like to see Mayor Wilson support plans that help our city pull out of the Joint Terrorism task force, out of the HSI task force, and abolish BRIC altogether.

Best,
Tamara Grasty

Madalyn Letellier

From: Emma Rybeck [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 7:10 PM
To: All City Council; Mayor; Public Comments
Subject: Push back against SPD use of CrimeTracer

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Dear Mayor Wilson and City Councilors,

My name is Emma Rybeck and I am a long term Somerville resident very concerned about tomorrow's City Council agenda.

I see that tomorrow's City Council agenda contains [the approval of the Crime Tracer Surveillance Technology Impact Report](#). I am urging all of you to take this opportunity to push back and gain more information about Somerville's use of Crime Tracer and the city's connection to the Commonwealth Fusion Center. If our City is truly committed to municipal freedom in the face of rising fascism, we should detach ourselves from surveillance systems that put community members at risk.

The use of surveillance technology is of special concern to the residents of Somerville now, given both the overall rise of surveillance across the country and the use of surveillance technologies and data sharing databases to kidnap and deport our neighbors. Chelsea, a community that shares Somerville's commitment to "sanctuary" policies, has seen firsthand how data-sharing can lead to devastating outcomes. Last year, [three boys were kidnapped by ICE](#) after being brought into the police department and fingerprinted because they allegedly had a pellet gun. If we continue to empower the criminal legal system and the surveillance state in Somerville, it is only a matter of time before something similar happens here.

CrimeTracer is a technology [created and maintained by a private company, SoundThinking](#), that uses dubious analytics and AI integrations to share and manipulate data about our community. While the Commonwealth Fusion Center claims no federal law enforcement has access to Massachusetts CrimeTracer data, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of ICE, [has had access to CrimeTracer data in the past](#).

Are there any guardrails in place to ensure Somerville's CrimeTracer data won't be shared with federal agencies in the future? Is the benefit of CrimeTracer worth the potential risk to our community if that data is compromised?

Private, AI-driven tech platforms should have no place in the development of public safety in Somerville. The fact that we continue to allow SPD to engage with platforms such as CrimeTracer and ShotSpotter, and that we continue to participate in fusion centers like BRIC and the Commonwealth Fusion Center, show a serious blindspot in our commitment to protecting our communities from the

devastating effects of destructive federal policies, surveillance technologies, and venture-capital backed corporate greed.

Please use this opportunity to make a firm statement against Somerville's use of CrimeTracer and other SoundThinking technologies like ShotSpotter. If there ever was a time to disentangle Somerville from these systems, the time is now.

Best,
Emma Rybeck

