

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:	2/19/2025
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