

Madalyn Letellier

From: Allie Girouard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 1:39 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council; Mayor
Subject: Push back against SPD use of CrimeTracer

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Dear Mayor Wilson and City Councilors,

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,
Allie Girouard



Madalyn Letellier

From: William Aaron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 2:38 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council; Mayor
Subject: Concerns over the Surveillance Technology Impact Report for Crime Tracer.

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Hello Mayor Wilson and City Councilors,

I am writing to express distress for [the approval of the Crime Tracer Surveillance Technology Impact Report](#) listed in tomorrow's City Council agenda, in particular for the fundamentally insufficient approach taken to safeguard the personal data of Somerville constituents through the use of Crime Tracer.

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. Box #2 of the impact report states the intended benefits for the SPD's usage of Crime Tracer as a resource for "obtaining nationwide crime data" in order to "effectively solve crime and address crime issues in the community."

What is insufficiently considered is that the aggregation of data with this surveillance technology will also apply to our Somerville community. Box #3 for the report states in clear language that the system in question will have access to "arrest reports, incident reports, citations, booking photos and information, vehicle information, probation/parole records, warrants (court information), field interviews and observations, and administrative messages" from the SPD. Further to this point, Box #3c clarifies that this sensitive information will be retained in Crime Tracer indefinitely, stating that the records will be removed only if the participating enforcement agency were to remove their own records from their own record management system. However, no system of accountability is referenced to ensure that this private company SoundThinking, which directly profits off of the collection of our data, would even comply with this standard. Is there no preparation in place for handling a company with such a great incentive to disregard our needs?

Even worse, the stated protections against the misuse of this data, seen in Boxes #1a, #3d, #8a, are that the Commonwealth Fusion Center and "the Chief or Police and/or the SPD Office of Professional Standards" will retain all responsibility for enforcing accountability, relying on warning users of the prohibitions repeatedly as listed in Box #3a. This is laughably naive when considering the horrific kidnappings performed by federal immigration agents against our beloved community members. Ostensibly, the Commonwealth Fusion Center claims no federal law enforcement has access to Massachusetts CrimeTracer data. But how can this claim be trusted in the long term when Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the investigative arm of ICE, [has had access to CrimeTracer data in the past](#). And at any point can readily exercise preemption to make use of this data? What kind of sanctuary

city can we claim to be if we allow such a threat against our neighbors to be aggregated, trusting that our word alone will prevent malefactors from using this data to perform further kidnappings?

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.

Thank you,
William Aaron



Madalyn Letellier

From: Alexandra Thorn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 3:14 PM
To: Public Comments; All City Council; Mayor
Subject: Reject CrimeTracer, ask about 28 CFR Part 23

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Members of the Council and Mayor Wilson,

My name is Alexandra Thorn, and I'm a Somerville resident living in Ward 5.

I'm writing to express my serious concern with the possible continuation of a city contract with CrimeTracer (formerly CopLink).

In the current federal landscape, we need to do everything we can to disentangle our law enforcement processes with a federal government that has clear malicious intentions toward all immigrants and toward anyone with opinions that it perceives as dissent.

Federal law enforcement infrastructure has been coopted to target as "terrorists" anyone with a different vision for the country than the current presidential administration.

In the current environment, we should absolutely not permit data collected by Somerville police to be integrated into an "AI-powered law enforcement search engine and investigative platform that consolidates over a billion criminal justice records (CAD, RMS, mugshots, warrants) to help officers identify patterns and suspects".

Specifically, when the Surveillance Technology Impact Report is reviewed at this week's council meeting, please ask questions about how it is possible for CrimeTracer to comply with the federal regulation 28 CFR Part 23, which requires that all the records of the "criminal intelligence system" be based on at least reasonable suspicion that a particular individual is involved in a crime.

I would further add that body cameras also pose a number of surveillance concerns, and should only be used by the police with civilian oversight and with clear policies that the police must write and file their reports of what happened **before** viewing the camera footage, as has been recommended by the ACLU and the statewide Body Worn Cameras Task Force. Body camera footage should also not be allowed to be used for unrelated investigations without a warrant, and police should not be given free discretion for when cameras should be turned on and off, nor be allowed to make surreptitious recordings.

Thanks you for your attention,
Alexandra Thorn