

# Surveillance Technology Working Group

Meeting #61

06/04/2024

# Agenda

- Presentation (Johannes Himmelreich)
- Quick Updates
- Coming Up
- Questions

# Reference Slides

# Review

## Past Decisions

- **Fotokite:** Aerial UAS allowing for different perspectives during crisis response. Not exempt, will go through the process.
  - Press Release out, done with public comment period
  - Public comments received, received comments from SPD
  - Recommendation was sent to the Mayor
- **Vacant Lot Monitoring:** Sensor that detect changes in a scene to monitor lots for dumping. Not exempt, will go through the process.
  - Press Release out, done with public comment period
  - Grandfathered in because the request was made before review process
- **Community Asset Tracker:** Camera with machine learning algorithm to identify objects within the city.
  - Assessed pilot, documentation provided
- **COPS:** Cameras strategically placed around the city to aid in policing
  - Exempted

# Review

## Past Decisions

- **Samsara:** Fleet management technology
  - Assessed in previous session
  - Public comment period completed
  - Recommendation was sent to the Mayor on 2/01
  - Mayor Walsh stated that he read the read the groups recommendations, and is in agreement with a **qualified approval**, and is in agreement with the importance of putting in appropriate policies and procedures.
- **Flock Safety/ALPRs:** Street cameras that capture vehicle plates.
  - Assessed in previous session
  - Public comment period completed
  - The Work Group heard from SPD Officers on 1/25/22 for more information regarding this.
  - The STWG created guidelines for ALPR Use and this was recommended to the mayor with the stipulations written on 3/11/22.

# Review

## Past Decisions

- **Cyclomedia:** Right of Way Imaging
  - Public comment period completed
  - Recommendation was sent to the Mayor on 5/07/22
  - Mayor Walsh stated: I have reviewed the STWG's recommendation and I am in agreement with it.
- **Dataminr:** Social Media monitoring of violent posts.
  - Dataminr staff met with STWG on 6/21/2022.
  - Dataminr then removed their offer of service on 6/21/2022.
- **Rubicon:** Vehicle route optimization software
  - STWG met on 9/27/22 and this was determined to not be a form of Surveillance
- **Opticom:** Software that in an event of an emergency the Fire Department could switch the traffic lights on their route to turn green for them.
  - STWG met on 12/06/22 and this was determined to not be a form of Surveillance

# Review

## Past Decisions

- **Body-Worn Camera's (Code Enforcement):**
  - Recommendation was sent to the Mayor in Sept. 2023
  - Mayor Walsh signed a letter stating that he is in agreement with the groups determination.

# Review

## Internal Norms

### Attendance:

1. If members have unjustified absences for three meetings in a three month time period, the Surveillance Team Working Group (STWG) Coordinators will reach out to the member.
2. The working group is required to have at least 50% of all members present before we hold a recommendation vote.
  - a. Of those present at least 40% should be non-city staff.

### External Participants:

1. Outside participants should request permission before-hand to the API team.
  - a. The API team will inform the STWG before meetings if there will be outside participants joining the group.

### Documentation for Community Review:

1. The notes from the STWG Sessions will be posted to the STWG Website after the meetings.

### Letter of Commitment:

1. Is effective for one year, and is to be sent out annually.

[View Attendance and Guest Norms](#)



# Review

## Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

2 - 6 Weeks  
(10 - 30  
Business Days)

Initial submission to  
determination of  
surveillance

Every 2 Weeks  
(10 Business Days)

Short duration meeting  
to vote on technology  
exemptions

2 Weeks  
(10 Business Days)

Public comment period:  
● Issuance of press  
release  
● Council meeting

(\* ) For now public input will  
be received via a Google Form  
and in the future will be on  
the new website.

2 Weeks  
(10 Business Days)

Submission of finalized form  
(by dept.) to time of  
recommendation.

Group will individually  
research; departments will get  
follow-up questions; group to  
vote yes/no; and submit  
recommendation.

# STWG Planning (Review)

Update STWG

Website  (Complete)

- Tech Recommendations
- Meeting Notes and Slide Decks

Connect with other cities doing  
Surv. Tech Work



Short Term  
(April – June  
2022)

Revamp our approach to  
community engagement

Complete Citywide departmental  
training

- Determine Schedule for refresher trainings (annually or every 6 months)



Medium Term  
(July – September  
2022)

Complete an audit of technologies currently used by the City as  
Surveillance or Not  (Complete)

Release an Annual Report

- Including recommendations, data that came from recommendations, and if stipulations are being followed.

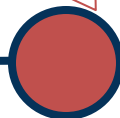


Long term  
(October 2022 –  
December 2023)

# STWG Long Term Plan (Review)

Begin process of trying to transfer STWG to a **City Ordinance**

Determine Member's **Term Duration**



Requires more planning

# Definition

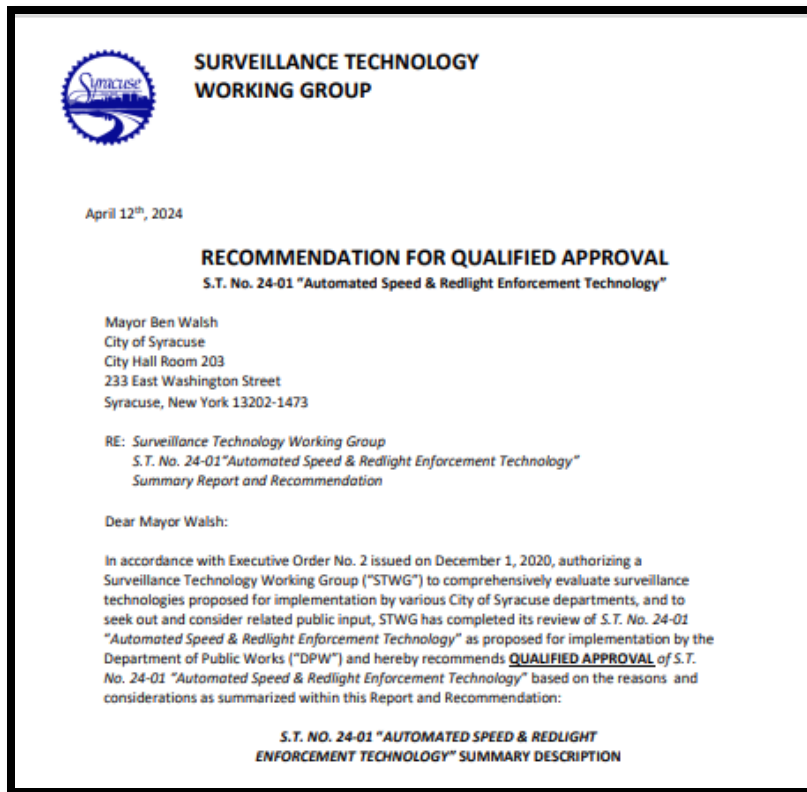
## Definition of a Surveillance Technology (According to [Mayor's Executive Order on Surveillance Technology](#)):

- Technologies that “observe or analyze the movements, behavior, or actions of identifiable individuals in a manner that is reasonably likely to raise concerns about civil liberties, freedom of speech or association, racial equity or social justice.”

# Meeting slides

# Automated Speed & Redlight Enforcement Technologies

## Guidelines were approved by Mayor



# Competing Views of Surveillance Technology (Orwellian vs. Kafka) (Johannes Presentation)



# Quick Updates

# Updates

- So far we have received three [STWG Agreement](#)
- If you have not completed and returned this, please do so



## Surveillance Technology Working Group Agreement

I understand that my role as a member of the City of Syracuse's Surveillance Technology Working Group is a significant responsibility and will make it a priority. I look forward to working with this team and, like the others, I:

- Support the Mission, Vision, Values and Goals of the working group.
- Will offer my expertise to help ensure the success of the working group.
- Will work with the rest of the team to communicate the organization's role to the city's residents.
- Will notify group members if I need to be absent for a scheduled session
- Will attend at least 75% of the meetings held each year I serve and, whether I attend or not, will continually communicate with the team and group coordinators to ensure I understand all current affairs.
- Will actively participate in all requests for my assistance and response.
- Will notify the group coordinators if myself or a direct relative possess a conflict of interest with regards to any recommendation that the working group is issuing (including but not limited to owning stock in a proposed company, or other financial or non-financial conflicts of interest).

This commitment is active for the 2024 calendar year. I have read and fully agree to this Letter of Commitment and look forward to assisting the organization in this role.

Member

## Proposed Revisions to Executive Order #2

Proposed revisions have been made in a [Google Document HERE](#)

### **Surveillance Technologies**

#### **Goal:**

To create and support a scalable process allowing for citizens through their representatives to have a say in technologies that surveil the city and to ensure those technologies are implemented in a safe and well governed way.

Using data to help inform decisions in government can build efficiencies where needed and ensure projects are delivering productive outcomes for the public. Appropriate levels of oversight related to specific types of data collection and analysis are needed to ensure the privacy of community members is considered and protected, bias in automated decision making is minimized, and transparency in the use of these technologies and analytics tools is present. Surveillance technologies are defined by the city of Syracuse as those that "observe or analyze the movements, behavior, or actions of identifiable individuals in a manner that is reasonably likely to raise concerns about civil liberties, freedom of speech or association, racial equity or social justice." In many cases, these types of technologies are effective tools and can be used in criminal investigations, other public safety applications, or monitoring of infrastructure systems. In order to ensure transparency, equity, and public participation around the procurement and use of these technologies, the following process is put into place for surveillance technologies going forward.

#### **Development of Working Group**

The working group will consist of 7 - 10 individuals responsible for maintenance of a

# Coming Up

## Presentation Schedule

Month	Presenter	Organization	Topic
July	Renata Gerecke, Algorithms Reporting Manager & Jiahao Chen, Director of AI & Machine Learning	NYC Office of Technology & Innovation Strategic Initiatives (Research and Collaborate)	AI Reporting in New York City
Aug-24	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sep-24	Corinne Worthington & Alan Newcomb	Surveillance Technology Oversight Project @ The Urban Justice Center	AI bias and responsible evaluation and Selection of Technologies that might be employed at a Local Level

If you have ideas for upcoming presenters, please email Jason Scharf at [jscharf@syr.gov](mailto:jscharf@syr.gov)

# Questions

