Surveillance Technology Working Group

Meeting #62
07/02/2024

Agenda

- Presentation (Renata Gerecke, Algorithms Reporting Manager & Jiahao Chen, Director of AI & Machine Learning – NYC Office of Technology & Innovation (OTI)
- Flood Detection Sensors (New Technology Submission Review)
- 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)	Every 2 Weeks (10 Business Days)	2 Weeks (10 Business Days)	2 Weeks (10 Business Days)
Initial submission to determination of surveillance	Short duration meeting to vote on technology exemptions	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.	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**

Revamp our approach to **community engagement**

Complete Citywide **departmental training**

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

Complete an audit of technologies currently used by the City as **Surveillance or Not** ✅ **(Complete)**
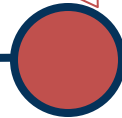
Release an **Annual Report**

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

Short Term
(April – June 2022)

Medium Term
(July – September 2022)

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

AI Reporting in New York City

Renata Gerecke, Algorithms Reporting Manager
& Jiahao Chen, Director of AI & Machine Learning
at NYC Office of Technology & Innovation (OTI)

New Technology Submission
(Flood Detection Sensors)

City Department Requesting	Mayor's Office
Brief description about the technology	Researchers from Syracuse University received a grant to implement technologies for outdoor flood detection and monitoring along key city streets. The technology includes optical sensors/cameras that will detect the location of flooding along city streets and right-of-way, transmitting real time information about flooding conditions over a long range wide area network (LoRaWAN). While the City is not directly procuring or implementing this technology, the City will execute a data sharing agreement with SU so that data related to flooding conditions can be shared with DPW staff to facilitate the maintenance of storm sewer infrastructure and help the city proactively address flooding concerns on the city's right-of-way.
Vendor selected?	SU will be procuring devices/software
What is the name of the vendor?	NA
Are you looking for this to be a pilot program or a new technology implementation?	Data sharing agreement with 3rd party
Purpose of this new technology	The purpose of this technology and data sharing agreement with SU is to foster scientific research for the benefit of the Syracuse community. City storm sewer operations will directly benefit from this project by providing real time incident information that the sewer maintenance crews can use to proactively mitigate flooding conditions at and near storm sewers around the city.
Do you know where the information that is obtained will be stored?	No
Intended audience	SU researchers + City employees
How long you plan on using?	No
Physical hardware or software?	Both Hardware and Software
How many physical units are you hoping to procure?	City will not directly procure
What type of information would be captured from this technology?	location coordinates only when flooding is detected

16

Flood Detection Sensors Overview

- Discussion
- Does this meet the definition of being a type of 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."*
- Does this meet any of the exemptions?

Exemptions:
a) Technology that is used to collect data where any individual knowingly and willingly provides the data.
b) Technology that is used to collect data where individuals were presented with a clear and conspicuous opt-out notice.
c) Technologies used for everyday, normal course of business office use.
d) Body-worn cameras (refer to existing BWC policy).
e) Cameras installed in or on a police vehicle (refer to existing policy).
f) Cameras installed pursuant to state law authorization in or on any vehicle or along a public right-of-way solely to record traffic violations (data collected would be used exclusively for traffic enforcement purposes).
g) Cameras installed on City property solely for security purposes.
h) Cameras installed solely to protect the physical integrity of City infrastructure, such as cameras at water reservoirs.
i) Technology that monitors only City employees in the performance of their City functions.

Quick Updates

Member Agreements

- If you have not completed and returned this, please do so

Members missing STWG Agreements agreements are:
- Nicolas Diaz
- Valerie Didamo
- Chief Tim Gleeson
- DM Owens
- Jawwaad Rasheed
- Michelle Sczpanski
- Jen Tifft
- Johannes Himmelreich
- Bradford Morse
- Daniel Schwarz

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

20

Coming Up

Presentation Schedule

Month	Presenter	Organization	Topic
Aug-24	Daniel Schwarz	NYCLU	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
Oct-24	TBD	TBD	TBD

If you have ideas for upcoming presenters, please email Jason Scharf at jscharf@syr.gov

Questions