

From: [Jon Henry](#)
To: [SFPD, Commission \(POL\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Info, HRC \(HRC\)](#); [Flaherty, Steve \(DPA\)](#); [Henderson, Paul \(DPA\)](#)
Subject: SF Safe Camera surveillance program
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Dear President Elias and Commissioners,

I write to you with concerns regarding the SF Safe City Camera Program and the broader implications of surveillance in our communities. While we acknowledge the program's goal to improve public safety, there remain pressing questions about transparency, fairness, and accountability.

First and foremost, who is the private entity involved in this initiative, and what is their vested interest in our community? We must educate the public about the reasons behind their involvement and ensure they are made aware of the implications of their participation.

San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 19B: Surveillance Technology Policy Ordinance, specifically Section 19B.2, mandates signage requirements for city-operated surveillance technology, including cameras in public places. Clear signage and online location disclosure are required to ensure transparency. Is the SF Safe City Camera Program in full compliance with these requirements?

We must know the locations of these cameras to perform a demographic analysis. Are these cameras dispersed citywide or targeted to specific areas? Such insights would offer clarity on potential biases in the program's implementation.

Additionally, the frequency with which law enforcement requests footage remains unknown to us. Establishing clarity here would help in fostering transparency and trust.

Given the potential concerns around privacy and surveillance, we urge the establishment of a Community Oversight Committee (COC). Such a committee can serve as a bridge between the community, law enforcement, and policymakers, ensuring that surveillance is carried out ethically and transparently. This will aid in improving relations between law enforcement and the community, creating a collaborative environment that prioritizes public safety while respecting the rights and concerns of community members.

We strongly advocate for:

Clear, ongoing communication with the public regarding surveillance practices.

A commitment to ensure that the program operates within the stipulations of the Surveillance Technology Policy Ordinance.

The establishment of the proposed COC to play an active role in program oversight, community feedback, and relationship-building with law enforcement.

Community members have the right to understand how surveillance affects their daily lives. They also have the right to participate in shaping policies that concern their privacy and safety. Although it is stated that there is no live monitoring, no facial recognition, and footage requests are limited to law enforcement entities, we still need further reassurances.

Transparency, collaboration, and oversight are non-negotiable components of a just surveillance system. We await your proactive steps in this direction, and we're hopeful for a future where community-centric values guide our public safety efforts.

Sincerely,

Jon Henry

Executive Director

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