

July 8, 2024

**TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your review the City of Boston's 2023 Annual Surveillance Report, pursuant to the Ordinance on Surveillance Oversight and Information Sharing, Boston City Code Section 16-63 (the "Ordinance"). This transformative Ordinance was designed to enhance transparency, public accountability, and democratic oversight of the City's use of surveillance technologies, and I am grateful for the City Council's thorough review and approval of the Surveillance Use Policies submitted in 2022.

The attached Annual Surveillance Report includes detailed information regarding the use of each Surveillance Technology previously approved by the Boston City Council under Sections 16-63.3c of the Ordinance. All departments covered by the Ordinance have shared information describing how each technology has been used; whether and how often data acquired through the use of the Surveillance Technology was shared with any partner agencies; a summary of any community concerns about the Surveillance Technology; the results of any internal audits regarding the Surveillance Technology; an accounting of whether the Surveillance Technology has been effective at achieving its identified purpose; the number of public records requests received by the City seeking documents concerning the Surveillance Technology; an estimate of the total annual costs for the Surveillance Technology; whether the civil rights and liberties of any communities or groups are disproportionately impacted by the deployment of the Surveillance Technology; and a disclosure of any new agreements with non-City entities that may include acquiring, sharing, or otherwise using Surveillance Technology or the Surveillance Data it provides.

Each City department and agency subject to the Ordinance has worked diligently to compile data related to use of each Surveillance Technology, governed by transparent Surveillance Use Policies that are designed to protect privacy, civil rights, public safety, and racial and immigrant justice. I am grateful to the many public servants working to deploy technology for the betterment of Boston neighborhoods and communities, and I look forward to ongoing conversations about how our use of technology can better support our critical City services.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston