



PAB

**POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY
BOARD**



POLICING AND COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE: YOUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY

A Proposal for Change



**Data
Privacy**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is a Proposal for Change?	2
Notice of Public Comment Period	3
Definitions.	4
Executive Summary	5
PAB Recommendations on the Privacy of Personally Identifiable Information	5
Background	6
Collection and Storage of Personally Identifiable Information	6
Law Enforcement Technology at the Rochester Police Department	8
Body-Worn Cameras	8
Ring Camera Program	9
Blue Light Cameras	9
KingFish Cellular Transceivers (Stingray Devices)	13
Unmanned Aerial Vehicles	14
Privacy Impact Assessments	15
PAB Recommendations on Privacy Impact Assessments	16
Appendix 1: City of Rochester Ordinance No. 2022-285	18
Appendix 2: September 24, 2024 City Council Meeting Minutes for Ordinance No. 2024-311 ...	20
Appendix 3: April 20, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes for Ordinance No. 2025-102	22
Appendix 4: Privacy Impact Assessment Template	23

WHAT IS A PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE?

Pursuant to City Charter Article 18-5(K)(1), the Police Accountability Board shall review and assess RPD policies, procedures, patterns and practices and recommend changes with input from the community. In April 2021, the PAB voted to execute this duty with a process called Proposals for Change. A Proposal for Change is a community and data-driven process where the PAB makes formal recommendations to change policies and practices that impact the Rochester Police Department.

Pursuant to City Charter Article 18-5(K)(2), PAB shall send policy recommendations to the Chief of Police, the Mayor, and City Council. PAB shall also publish the policy recommendations on our website, www.rocpab.org.

Pursuant to City Charter Article 18-5(K)(4), the Chief of Police shall respond to PAB, the Mayor, and City Council within 30 days. This written response should include an explanation of why the Chief agrees or disagrees with the recommendations.

Pursuant to City Charter Article 18-5(K)(5), if the Chief of Police agrees with a recommendation, they shall provide a timeline of implementation.

Pursuant to City Charter Article 18-5(K)(6), PAB shall track the implementation of the policy recommendations on our website, www.rocpab.org.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The PAB announces the release of the draft of Surveillance Technology and Privacy Impact Assessments: A Proposal for Change. The PAB is looking for feedback on the draft, which analyzes the policies and procedures related to the storage and collection of personally identifiable information at the Rochester Police Department.

The public comment period will run from March 2nd, 2026 to April 3rd, 2026.

- You can submit comments online at <https://forms.office.com/r/bkC2SJc0UD>
- You can submit comments by email at PABFeedback@CityofRochester.gov.
- You can submit written comments by mail or dropbox to 57 St. Paul St., Rochester, NY 14604.

Following the public comment period, PAB staff will analyze and incorporate the feedback into the recommendations. PAB staff will present the revised report to the Board to approve, reject, or request a revision. If the Board votes to approve the policy recommendations, the final approved version will be published at www.rocpab.org and transmitted to City Council, the Mayor, and the Chief of Police.

The Chief of Police is required to respond to the recommendations within 30 days. The Chief's response will be published at www.rocpab.org.

DEFINITIONS

Blue Light Camera: A surveillance camera located in a public place, commonly mounted on buildings or at intersections.

Body-Worn Camera (BWC): A small camera worn on a police officer's uniform used to record audio and video of police activity and interactions.

Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS): A centralized database for storing digital evidence.

Open Data Portal: A website where a member of the public can view and download documents and data related to the Rochester Police Department (<https://data-rpdny.opendata.arcgis.com/>).

Personally Identifiable Information (PII): Information that can identify someone and provide personal information, such as someone's name, home address, and phone number.

Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA): A tool that evaluates how a project, system, or technology may affect individuals' privacy and identifies measures to mitigate potential risks.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV): An aircraft that navigates without a human pilot on board, also called a drone.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rochester Police Department (RPD) uses surveillance technologies to enhance public safety, including body-worn cameras, blue light cameras, and unmanned aerial vehicles (drones). These technologies often involve collecting personally identifiable information (PII), which is stored in digital evidence management systems. While such data can aid investigations, it can also be misused or mishandled. Such data breaches can violate an individual's right to privacy and constitutional protections. In addition to addressing universal concerns about privacy, it is important to protect against the disproportionate impact of surveillance technologies on marginalized communities. A privacy impact assessment (PIA) is an important tool that identifies and mitigates the privacy risks of surveillance technology.

PAB Recommendations on the Privacy of Personally Identifiable Information

To enhance public trust and effective operations, the Police Accountability Board recommends that the Rochester Police Department:

- Adopt a privacy impact assessment template for use at the RPD based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice;
- Complete the privacy impact assessment for the body-worn camera (BWC) program and digital evidence management system (DEMS), as required by city of Rochester Ordinance No. 2022-285 § 5;
- Complete and submit to City Council a privacy impact assessment for any future legislation or grant application related to the collection and/or storage of PII; and
- Publish all privacy impact assessments on the Open Data Portal.

BACKGROUND

The Rochester Police Department (RPD) uses surveillance technology to monitor suspicious activity and support investigations into alleged crimes. With cameras and other technology, the RPD collects and keeps information about individuals in the city of Rochester. By collecting and maintaining this information about an individual's identity, the RPD can more precisely identify crime suspects, victims, and witnesses.

Collection and Storage of Personally Identifiable Information

The Rochester Police Department (RPD) collects personally identifiable information (PII) as part of its law enforcement, public safety, and administrative functions. Some examples of PII are name, birthdate, personal activity and location, vehicle registration, biometric data like fingerprints or facial recognition, and home address. The RPD may collect this information on certain forms during interactions with civilians, during investigations, and during surveillance activities. The RPD stores PII in databases and digital evidence management systems (DEMS).

While personally identifiable information can help promote public safety, it is also possible for someone to misuse the information and undermine the protections guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution, which protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures. Organizations like the city of Rochester adopt policies and procedures to ensure that PII remains secure and private. When the RPD obtains PII in accordance with privacy laws, this information can help achieve public safety goals like closing crime cases. On the other hand, when privacy procedures are not followed, it can produce an undue burden on an individual's right to privacy.

There are a few different ways that PII can be mishandled or misused. First, an authorized user can misuse the information. For example, an individual with authorized access to a database may want to search for information about the home address of someone they know. The search would be inappropriate if the authorized user conducted it out of personal curiosity.

Second, an individual within an organization may gain access to a database without proper authorization. The unauthorized party could misuse or tamper with PII. Lastly, an unauthorized external party could access PII with malicious intent. Such data breaches have serious implications for the privacy of individuals.

In addition to misuse of existing PII, law enforcement agencies may also disproportionately collect PII from already marginalized communities. For example, the distribution of surveillance cameras (blue light cameras) is not even across the city of Rochester. There is a higher concentration of cameras in black and Hispanic neighborhoods than in predominantly white neighborhoods. Research shows that some police surveillance technologies like facial recognition have higher rates of inconsistencies when considering subjects with darker complexions. The inaccuracies of surveillance technology, compounded with the disproportionate policing of already marginalized communities, could negatively impact public safety outcomes in ways that are counterproductive to the primary goals of the technology.

¹ See Figure 4: Map of Blue Light Cameras per Capita by 2020 Census District on page 11

² Nicol Turner Lee and Caitlin Chin-Rothmann, The Brookings Institution, Police surveillance and facial recognition: Why data privacy is imperative for communities of color (2022). <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/police-surveillance-and-facial-recognition-why-data-privacy-is-an-imperative-for-communities-of-color/>

LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY AT THE ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Body-Worn Cameras

In 2016, Rochester City Council passed legislation requiring the RPD to adopt a body-worn camera program in response to calls for increased accountability for community-police interactions. By 2017, the RPD deployed body-worn cameras for all officers on patrol duty. The RPD stores the video collected from body-worn cameras in a digital evidence management system called Genetech Clearance. The Body-Worn Camera Manual clearly outlines the requirements for collection, storage, and retention of this footage.

In 2022, the RPD upgraded the body-worn camera program and digital evidence management system. City Council approved the program update in Ordinance No. 2022-285, which is included in this report as Appendix 1. In that legislation, City Council required that the RPD conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to accompany the program update. The RPD had not yet compiled that information as of December 2025.



Figure 1: Picture of Axon Body-Worn Camera

Ring Camera Program

A Ring camera is a home security device that provides real-time video of a property. The Ring LLC Neighbors application is “A smartphone app that acts as a digital neighborhood watch that both law enforcement and the public may access free of charge. It allows users to share and comment on real time crime and safety events.” The application aggregates information from individual home cameras in a radius around each camera. The RPD governs the access and use of information from the Ring Neighbors app in a document called Ring Neighbors Program SOP (standard operating procedure), available on the Open Data Portal.³

Blue Light Cameras

There are 157 surveillance cameras located around the City of Rochester in public places like intersections and outside of buildings. The devices have a distinctive blue light, so the RPD refers to them as blue light cameras. Since 2008, the RPD has used blue light cameras in locations chosen “based on developed crime data.”⁴ The RPD also uses mobile trailer cameras for surveillance of special events and specific community complaints.



Figure 2: Rochester Police Department Blue Light Camera on Division Street

³ RPD Ring Neighbors Program Standard Operating Procedure <https://data-rpdny.opendata.arcgis.com/documents/e79092d704ec47e8b1242320074e72c8/explore>

⁴ City of Rochester, RPD: *Police Overt Digital Surveillance System*. <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/departments/police/rpd-police-overt-digital-surveillance-system>

While the RPD’s webpage describing the blue light camera program says that camera locations are picked strategically based on crime data, such a connection is not apparent based on a three-year average of the RPD’s crime data from 2023 to 2025. The maps below show the number of crimes per census tract on the left and the number of cameras per census tract on the right.

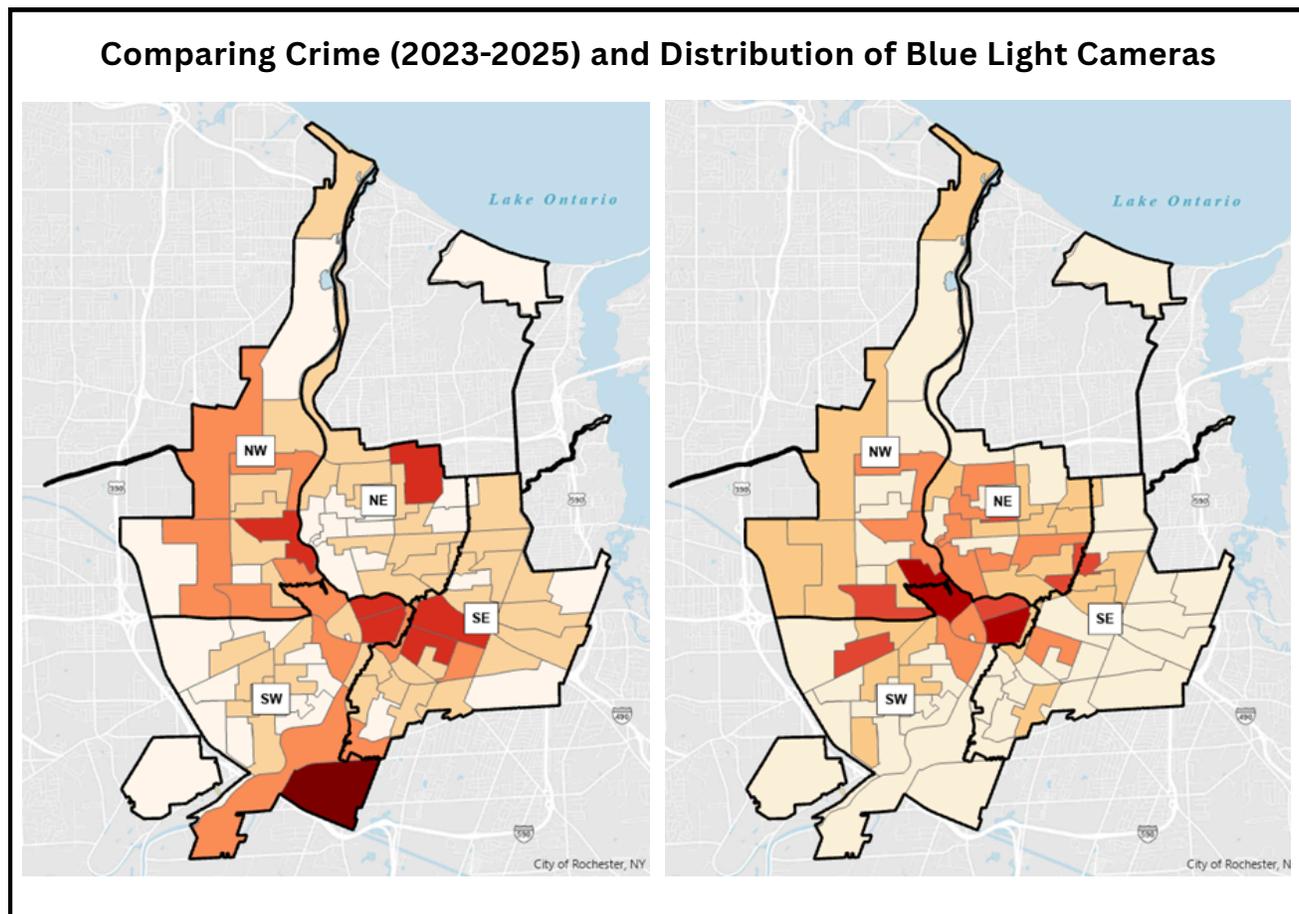
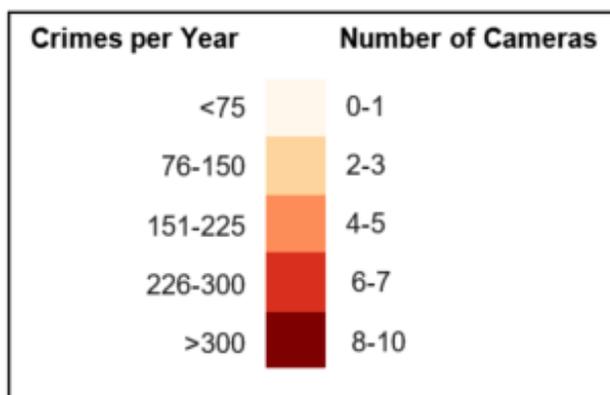


Figure 3: Comparing Crime and Distribution of Blue Light Cameras



In September 2024, City Council approved grant funds from New York State that included \$8 million to overhaul and upgrade the blue light camera system.⁵ The City Council meeting minutes that discuss that legislation are included in this report as Appendix 2. During this overhaul, the RPD will upgrade the system to include multiple cameras per unit, improve the image resolution, and incorporate 360° coverage. There is no written policy or procedure for blue light cameras located on the RPD’s Open Data Portal as of December 2025. The city of Rochester Department of Information Technology manages the storage of the footage in Genetec Clearance. City IT retains the blue light camera footage for 180 days.

There are over 150 blue light cameras throughout the city of Rochester. The map in Figure 4 shows the distribution of cameras by census tract. Census tracts with the lightest shading have no blue light cameras and those with darker shading have more blue light cameras per capita. Of the 82 census tracts included in the map, the PAB excluded three from the analysis due to population sizes of less than 100 people (indicated by gray shading).

Distribution of Blue Light Cameras in the City of Rochester, NY

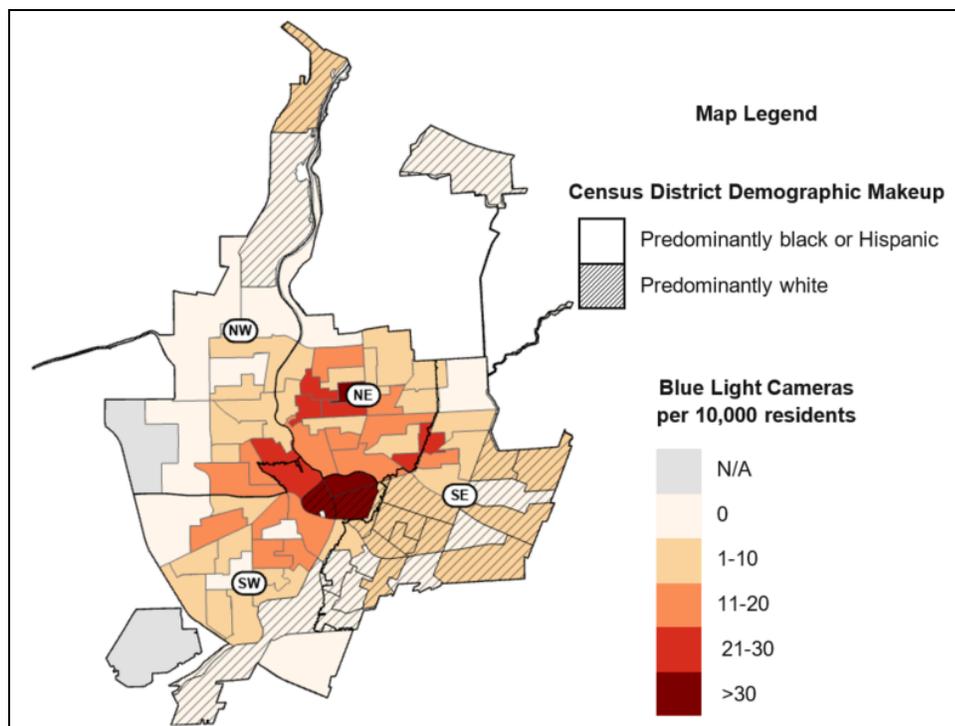


Figure 4: Map of Blue Light Cameras per Capita by 2020 Census District

⁵ City of Rochester Ordinance No. 2024-311

The three census tracts with the highest concentrations of blue light cameras are located in the Center City Zoning District. This unique zoning designation does not reflect the typical residential experience for most Rochesterians: only around 5,000 people live in this zoning district. In these three census tracts, the ratio of blue light cameras per capita was greater than two standard deviations away from the mean. For that reason, the PAB treated the census tracts in Center City as outliers and excluded them from the analysis. The remaining 76 census tracts encompassed a population of 205,458 people.

The PAB assigned census tracts to one of two categories according to data from the 2020 Decennial Census: (1) predominantly white non-Hispanic population and (2) predominantly black or Hispanic population. In the map in Figure 4, solid shading represents census tracts with a predominantly black or Hispanic population and cross-hatching represents census tracts with a predominantly white population.

While 74% of the population lives in predominantly black or Hispanic census tracts, those census tracts account for 87% of the City's blue light cameras outside of Center City. Conversely, 26% of the population lives in a predominantly white census tract, but only 13% of the City's blue light cameras are located there.

On average, there are about nine blue light cameras per 10,000 people across the city of Rochester. This ratio falls to about seven blue light cameras per 10,000 people outside of the Center City Zoning District. The concentration of blue light cameras varies by an area's demographic makeup. At about 9 blue light cameras per 10,000 people, the concentration of blue light cameras is almost three times greater in census tracts with predominantly black or Hispanic populations than in predominantly white census tracts, where it is about 3 blue light cameras per 10,000 people.⁶ The people of Rochester are three times more likely to be surveilled around their homes if they live in a predominantly black or Hispanic area than a predominantly white area.

⁶ This difference is statistically significant ($t=2.994$, $df=74$, $p<0.05$).

KingFish Cellular Transceivers (Stingray Devices)

A KingFish cellular transceiver, or stingray device, is a surveillance device that can track and intercept mobile phone communications. The RPD adheres to a nondisclosure agreement between the FBI and the Harris Corporation, the company that produces the KingFish technology.⁷ The agreement states that the RPD may not disclose its use nor the capabilities of the technology, even in legal proceedings. The RPD no longer uses this technology, according to the RPD’s liaison to the PAB in February 2025.

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) published information about the RPD’s use of cellular transceivers in 2016. They found that the RPD maintained at least one KingFish device and used it on many occasions, including four times without a warrant. According to NYCLU, “Stingrays allow authorities to spy on cell phones in the area by mimicking a cell tower and allow the police to pinpoint a person’s location. Stingrays also sweep up information from nearby bystander cell phones even when used to target specific phones.” Even when an agency possesses a warrant to collect information with a KingFish transceiver, it will inevitably collect information from mobile phones belonging to others in the vicinity.



Figure 5: Depiction of Cellular Transceiver from <https://sls.eff.org/technologies/cell-site-simulators-imsi-catchers>

⁷ Non-disclosure Agreement between the FBI and the RPD (2012).
https://www.nyclu.org/uploads/2015/04/2012_HarrisCorp_NDA2016-03-11_pgs135-141.pdf

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)

The RPD’s drone surveillance program is governed by General Order 418: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). According to this general order, the RPD may use the drone cameras for the following purposes: situational awareness, search and rescue, tactical deployment, scene documentation, mutual assistance, training, public relations demonstrations, and community safety.



Figure 6: Picture of Police Drone Camera from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/05/technology/police-drones.html>

The RPD’s periodic audits of this program show that the department used drones for activities like narcotics investigations, protest overwatch, ATV details, river gorge searches, outside agency assistance, and special events support.

The UAV audits show that RPD has increased its use of drone surveillance from 13 missions in 2019 to 78 missions in 2024. Figure 2 details the number of UAV missions each year since 2019. In April 2025, the RPD launched a pilot program called “Drones as First Responders.”

According to City Council meeting minutes from that month, the RPD would use drones to provide “real-time video feeds of crime scenes, vehicle accidents, field intelligence, officer safety data, suspect movement, and industrial incidents, even before officers arrive on the scene.”⁸

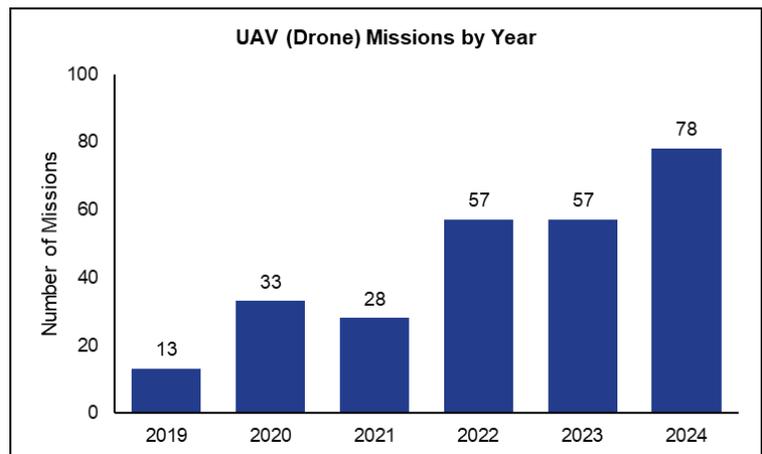


Figure 7: UAV (Drone) Missions by Year at the Rochester Police Department

The City Council meeting minutes regarding this legislation (Ordinance No. 2025-102) are included in this report as Appendix 3.

⁸ City of Rochester Ordinance No. 2025-102

Privacy Impact Assessments

The capabilities of police surveillance are expanding quickly with advancements in modern technology. In order to implement any new technology, the Rochester City Council must approve funds for RPD to procure the technology. This process provides an opportunity for City Council and the public to review the application of public funds. The PAB recommends that the RPD conduct a privacy impact assessment for any new technology that is brought before City Council. A privacy impact assessment is a tool that evaluates how a project, system, or technology may affect individuals' privacy and identifies measures to mitigate potential risks.

A privacy impact assessment can help an agency identify its own gaps, but it can help the agency defend itself as well. For example, if a data breach occurs, an organization can point to the privacy impact assessment to show all of the protections in place. An example of a privacy impact assessment template is included in this report as Appendix 4.

Other local governments across the country are tackling this issue of privacy and surveillance technology in different ways. The City of San Jose, California, sets the standard for incorporating privacy impact assessments into their democratic processes.⁹ Not only does the City of San Jose critically review any application of technology with privacy implications, they also publish the results of such reviews. This shows a commitment to protecting the privacy of the people of San Jose. For example, when a private company proposed to identify and track individuals experiencing homelessness, the City of San Jose rejected the proposal due to privacy concerns. The City of San Jose's website says, "This proposal was rejected given the highly invasive nature of ongoing monitoring of targeted individuals that did not pose an immediate threat to life, serious injury, nor serious property damage."

⁹ City of San Jose, *Privacy in Practice* (2025). <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/information-technology/digital-privacy/past-privacy-decisions>

In order to maintain a commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of the people of Rochester, the Rochester Police Department must establish a consistent procedure for assessing the privacy impacts of surveillance technology. By publishing these assessments, the RPD will show its commitment to the democratic ideals inherent in the Fourth Amendment.

PAB Recommendations on Privacy Impact Assessments

To enhance public trust and effective operations, the Police Accountability Board recommends that the Rochester Police Department:

- Adopt a privacy impact assessment template for use at the RPD based on guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice;
- Complete the privacy impact assessment for BWC and DEMS, as required by city of Rochester Ordinance No. 2022-285 § 5;
- Complete and submit to City Council a privacy impact assessment for any future legislation or grant applications related to the collection and/or storage of PII; and
- Publish all privacy impact assessments on the Open Data Portal.

Section 2: Privacy Impact Assessment Questions

Purpose Specification

- What is the primary mission or purpose for collecting personally identifiable information (PII)?
- Is the purpose clearly defined and communicated to all stakeholders?

Policy Applicability and Legal Compliance

- Is the information collection authorized by law or regulation?
- Are policies in place to ensure compliance with applicable privacy laws?

Governance and Oversight

- Are roles and responsibilities for privacy oversight clearly established?
- Is there a designated privacy officer for this system?

Information Management

- What types of data are collected?
- How is data collected, stored, and shared?

Data Quality Assurance

- Are processes in place to maintain data accuracy and reliability?
- How often is data reviewed or updated?

Security Safeguards

- What security measures are implemented to protect data from unauthorized access?
- Are regular audits conducted to ensure data security?

Information Retention and Destruction

- What are the policies for data retention?
- Is there a secure method for data destruction when no longer needed?

Accountability and Enforcement

- Are there mechanisms to enforce privacy policies?
- What procedures are in place for addressing privacy violations?



City of Rochester

City Clerk's Office

Certified Ordinance

Rochester, N.Y., _____
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I hereby certify that the following is a true copy of an ordinance which was duly passed by the Council of the City of Rochester on **September 20, 2022** and **Approved** by the Mayor of the City of Rochester, and was deemed duly adopted on **September 21, 2022** in accordance with the applicable provisions of law.

Ordinance No. 2022-285

Authorizing an agreement for body worn cameras and a digital evidence management system for the Rochester Police Department, as amended

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. Ordinance No. 2022-157, the 2022-23 Budget of the City of Rochester, as amended, is hereby further amended by increasing the revenue estimates and appropriations to Cash Capital by the sum of \$500,000, which amount is hereby appropriated from Federal funds realized from seized and forfeited assets.

Section 2. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into a professional services agreement with Insight Public Sector, Inc. to provide body worn camera equipment and to design and implement a digital evidence management system for the Rochester Police Department for a term of five years. The maximum compensation shall be \$3,834,455.85, which shall be funded in the amounts of:

\$2,020,000 in the proceeds of bonds appropriated in a concurrent bond ordinance;
\$500,000 in forfeiture funds appropriated to 2022-23 Cash Capital in section herein;
\$370,000 in 2020-21 Cash Capital;

\$525,000 in 2022-23 Cash Capital; and
\$419,455.85 from the 2022-23 Budget of the Police Department.

Section 4. The Mayor will engage the Police Accountability Board to succeed in the role played by the Coalition for Police Reform (CPR) as set forth in CPR's November 2017 Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Rochester.

Section 5. The Rochester Police Department will implement a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for the BWC program drawing upon US Department of Justice recommendations for local government PIAs.

Section 4.6. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Strikeout indicates deleted text, new text is underlined.

Passed by the following vote:

Ayes - President Meléndez, Councilmembers Gruber, Harris, Lightfoot, Lupien, Martin, Patterson, Peo, Smith - 9.

Nays - None - 0.

Attest 
Deputy City Clerk

**APPENDIX 2: SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-311**

TO THE COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ordinance No. 2024-311
Re: Grant Agreement – New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Law Enforcement
Technology grant

Council Priority: Public Safety

Comprehensive Plan 2034 Initiative Area: Reinforcing Strong Neighborhoods

Transmitted herewith for your approval is legislation authorizing an agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the receipt and use of \$10,000,000 for a Law Enforcement Technology (LETECH) grant.

This grant will be used to purchase new technology and to upgrade existing systems. The largest expenditure will be a complete upgrade and overhaul of the aged “blue-light” surveillance camera system. Equipment and technology to be purchased, including estimated costs are:

- \$8,000,000 – Blue light camera system overhaul/upgrade
- \$480,000 – Portable personnel towers for festival and event monitoring
- \$465,000 – Body-worn camera Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) integration with CAD (Hexagon) and RMS (New World) and DEMS enhancements
- \$250,000 – Portable camera light towers
- \$250,000 – Shotspotter system
- \$180,000 – Bucket truck for blue light camera installation and maintenance
- \$90,000 – Unmanned aerial vehicles (drones)
- \$75,000 – Laptop computers
- \$55,000 – Risk Terrain Modeling software for hotspots identification
- \$40,000 – Crash data retrieval kit and software
- \$40,000 – Silent radio alarms for motor vehicle thefts and burglaries
- \$35,000 – Forensic analysis software and training
- \$35,000 – Video enhancing software
- \$5,000 – 3D printer for camera housings

This is the first time RPD has received this grant. No matching funds are required. The City’s application was approved in Ordinance No. 2023-343.

The term of the agreement is April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025, but there is no term limit on fund expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,
Malik D. Evans
Mayor

Attachment No. AX-200

Ordinance No. 2024-311
(Int. No. 374)

Authorizing an agreement for a Law Enforcement Technology Grant

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for the receipt and use of a Law Enforcement Technology grant in the amount of \$10,000,000, which is hereby appropriated to purchase new technology and upgrade existing systems utilized by the Rochester Police Department. The term of the agreement shall be April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.

Section 2. The agreement shall contain such additional terms and conditions as the Mayor deems appropriate.

Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Passed by the following vote:

Ayes - President Meléndez, Councilmembers Gruber, Harris, Lightfoot, Monroe, Patterson - 6.

Nays - Councilmembers Lupien, Martin - 2.

**APPENDIX 3: APRIL 20, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FOR
ORDINANCE NO. 2025-102**

TO THE COUNCIL
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Ordinance No. 2025-102
Re: Appropriation of Federal Forfeiture Funds – Overtime

Council Priority: Public Safety

Comprehensive Plan 2034 Initiative Area: Reinforcing Strong Neighborhoods

Transmitted herewith for your approval is legislation appropriating \$25,000 from federal forfeited funds generated by the Police Department, and amending the 2024-25 Budget of the Police Department to reflect this amount.

These funds will be allocated to cover overtime costs associated with the implementation of a 30-day pilot program for "Drones as First Responders" (DFR). The deployment of drone technology in first responder operations has been successfully implemented by multiple agencies nationwide, with research confirming its effectiveness in providing real-time video feeds of crime scenes, vehicle accidents, field intelligence, officer safety data, suspect movement, and industrial incidents, even before officers arrive on the scene. This capability enables responding officers to develop a proactive response strategy, thereby enhancing situational awareness, ensuring officer safety, and improving overall community outcomes. Additionally, communities that have implemented this program have experienced improvements in officer response times.

The DFR pilot program will be overseen by the Special Investigations Section's Surveillance Electronic Support Unit of the RPD, whose members hold valid Federal Aviation Administration Part 107 Certificates.

The appropriations requested this month will result in a balance of approximately \$1,170,000 in the federal forfeiture justice fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Malik D. Evans
Mayor

Attachment No. AY-78

Ordinance No. 2025-102
(Int. No. 124)

Appropriating funds and budget amendment related to the implementation of a 30-day pilot program for "Drones as First Responders"

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Rochester as follows:

Section 1. Ordinance No. 2024-200, the 2024-25 Budget of the City of Rochester, as amended, is hereby further amended by increasing the revenue estimates and appropriations of the Budget of the Police Department by the sum of \$25,000, which amount is hereby appropriated from funds realized from seized and forfeited assets to fund overtime costs associated with the implementation of a 30-day pilot program for "Drones as First Responders" (DFR).

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Appendix 4: Privacy Impact Assessment Template

This template is adapted from the U.S. Department of Justice’s PIA template, which was designed to assist entities in systematically evaluating their information systems and practices to identify and mitigate privacy risks. The sections are formatted for clarity and ease of use.

Answer each question with Yes, No, Incomplete, or Not Applicable (N/A) and provide details where necessary.

Section 1: System Details
Information Sharing System or Exchange(s) Assessed:
System Names:
System Purpose:
Assessment Date(s):
Organizations/Entities Involved:
Assessors:
Project Manager:
Final PIA Submitted to:
Date Submitted:
Approved By:
Approved Date:

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sara Jenks is the Oversight Manager at the PAB. She holds a Masters of Science from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.