

From: Yadi [<mailto:email.yadi@gmail.com>]
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To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Public Comment - Public Safety Committee meeting 7/23/2021

-EXTERNAL-

Pasadena Privacy For All opposes the use of facial recognition technology in Long Beach.

Facial recognition technology has been proven to be unreliable, discriminatory, and a threat to civil rights.

Facial recognition technology enables the government to automatically track residents' identities, whereabouts, associations, and even facial expressions. The use of this technology by government agencies creates unfettered citywide networks that place our communities under continuous surveillance. The powerful and automated nature of surveillance technologies like facial recognition incentivizes the needless infringement of first and fourth amendment rights such as due process.

The Long Beach Police Department's lack of robust policies and practices regarding the use of this surveillance technology which lacks security and privacy is extremely alarming in light of an ever growing number of data hacks and abuse of people's personal data. Unlike a password or a credit card number, people cannot "reset" their face if it is compromised due to a breach of Long Beach City or vendor databases.

Cities across the nation and technology companies have acknowledged the harms of facial recognition use by law enforcement. Facing a reckoning over racial equity, institutions like IBM, Microsoft, and Amazon announced moratoriums on face recognition technology partnerships with law enforcement in 2020. Jurisdictions in Minnesota, California, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Maine, Oregon, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Louisiana have already passed bans on the use of facial recognition.

Unaccountable surveillance and its potential exploitation prevents Long Beach communities from living safe, fulfilling lives and is a threat to civil rights. It is time for a ban or moratorium on law enforcement use of facial recognition technology in Long Beach.

www.pasadenaprivacy.org

Name: Yadi on behalf of Pasadena Privacy For All
City: Pasadena
State: CA

Meeting Date: July 23, 2021
Agenda Item: 3. Facial Recognition, LACRIS Best Practices and Privacy

To be read aloud: Yes