

**From:** [Yadi](#)  
**To:** [Alejandra Garcia](#); [CityClerk](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Technology and Innovation Commission 7/28/2021  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:50:39 PM

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**-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.

The March 18, 2021 Memorandum from Long Beach Police Department (Special Order - Facial Recognition Technology) states:

*“3. The Long Beach Police Department may elect to integrate the use of facial recognition technology with its public safety video surveillance.”*

Facial recognition technology when used in the manner proposed by the LBPD 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.

Furthermore, the LBPD's lack of robust policies and practices regarding the use of this surveillance technology which also 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.

The National Institute for Standards and Technology in a 2019 report found that even the best-performing facial recognition systems it tested do not perform as well on women and people with darker skin tones. In some cases, people with darker skin tones were misidentified at rates 10 to 100 times more often than people with lighter skin tones.

A June 2021 report by the United States Government Accountability Office “Facial Recognition Technology” (GAO-21-518) recommends that “...Law Enforcement Agencies

Should Better Assess Privacy and Other Risks."

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. As of 2021, 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.

### END OF COMMENT ###

[www.pasadenaprivacy.org](http://www.pasadenaprivacy.org)

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**To be read aloud: Yes**

Name: Pasadena Privacy For All

City: Pasadena

State: CA

Meeting Date: July 28, 2021

Agenda Item: 3. Technology & Innovation Commission's ad hoc committee work on facial recognition technology