



Brooke Jenkins
District Attorney

July 11, 2022

Supervisor Aaron Peskin
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102

Re: File No. 22060 – Administrative Code - Surveillance Technology Policy for Police Department Use of Non-City Entity Surveillance Cameras.

Dear Chair Peskin;

I am writing in support of File # 22060 – Administrative Code - Surveillance Technology Policy for Police Department Use of Non-City Entity Surveillance Cameras. This ordinance will provide law enforcement with a critical tool to make our city safer while also supporting accountability.

As prosecutors, we can deliver justice for residents when our Police Department is able to make arrests, and provide sufficient evidence to support a conviction. This policy will help us promote and protect public safety, while also maintaining strong safeguards to prevent any misuse of technology. I know this balance is important to you, and that you have been working diligently with the Mayor's Office, the Police Department and others to achieve it.

The proposed Policy would authorize the Police Department to use cameras owned, leased, managed, or operated by non-City entities to temporarily monitor activity live during exigent circumstances, significant events with public safety concerns, and investigations relating to active misdemeanor and felony violations. I believe this policy can help address the existence of open-air drug markets fueling the sale of the deadly drug fentanyl. Drug dealers are destroying people's lives and wreaking havoc on neighborhoods like the Tenderloin. Mass organized retail theft, like we saw in Union Square last year, or targeted neighborhood efforts like we've seen in Chinatown is another area where the proposed policy can help. These are just a few examples where the use of cameras can help us tackle the significant public safety challenges facing our city.

This ordinance can also aid in conducting investigations into police misconduct. By allowing the review of historical video footage for the purposes of investigations into alleged officer misconduct, this policy can become a critical part of increasing transparency and accountability in law enforcement. Increased transparency like this is essential for building and maintaining trust between the public and law enforcement.

Finally, as prosecutors, it's essential that we prosecute the right people who are committing crimes. Camera footage can help identify the perpetrators of crime, and also prevent law enforcement from pursuing the wrong person. We can ensure that appropriate charges are filed based on the actions that actually took place. That serves and promotes justice.

I support this policy because not only will it serve a practical purpose of helping us to deter crime and hold those who commit crimes in our city accountable, but it will also send a message to those scheming to prey on our city that there will be consequences for their actions. Our tone and approach matters. As important as it is to be able to respond to a crime and prosecute when it occurs, it's just as important to be able to prevent them from ever happening in the first place. This policy is a responsible tool to help us make our city safer.

Thank you for leadership on this important policy matter. I urge this committee and all members of the Board of Supervisors to support this critical public safety measure.

Sincerely,



Brooke Jenkins
District Attorney

cc: Victor Young, Clerk