



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

Public Safety Commission Meeting - 12/19/2024

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 PM

Roll Call

1. Roll Call

Roll Call (voice roll call led by Staff Liaison Christopher Harvey in the absence of Secretary Zeornee Herts)

Commissioner Carolyn Hobbs - not present
Commissioner James Doyle - Present
Vice Chair Rev. Billy Burris - Present
Commissioner Anna Morshedi - Present
Chair Johnny Gilbert, Jr. - Not present
Secretary Zeorneé Herts - Not present
Commissioner Kambrei Charles - Present
Commissioner Kate Moffitt - Present
Commissioner Conner Thompson - Present

Quorum is met

Commissioner Thompson motioned to extend the number of participants for "Citizen Communications." It was seconded by Commissioner Kate Mofitt. It passed.

2. Opening Comments -

Chair Gilbert Jr. asked if there was any good news to share in light of recent national events. Everyone agreed it was good to be alive and present.

Staff Liaison - Christopher Harvey - No Comments

3. Citizen Communications - This portion of the meeting focused heavily on community concerns about using surveillance technologies by the Little Rock Police Department (LRPD), particularly license plate readers, ShotSpotter, and Axon Fuses real-time crime center technologies. The public testimony revealed significant distrust of the city's approach to public safety and emphasized the need for greater transparency, accountability, and community control. The following resident offered comments on the summary above.

Resident #1: Amy Pritchard

Resident #2: Blake Tierney

Resident #3: Kenny Grand

Resident #4: Dawn Jeffrey

Resident #5: Rebecca Marshall

Resident #6: Akshay

Resident #7: William Gerard

Resident #8: Wendell Griffin

Resident #9: Shawn Woods

4. Public Comment

Several residents voiced concerns regarding oversight of surveillance technologies, requesting transparency and community involvement in decisions.

Blake Tierney discussed the Community Control Over Police Surveillance (CCOS) legislation.

Kenny Grand raised concerns about data collection by license plate readers, the potential for misuse of technology to target communities, and the prioritization of surveillance over community programs.

Dawn Jeffrey expressed grave concerns over the lack of oversight in defining safety and investing in safety and asked the board to recall the vote.

Sean Wallace spoke against excessive surveillance spending and advocated for community program investment.

Ash discussed the dangers of corporate overreach and the lack of checks and balances in using license plate readers.

William Gerard mentioned a safety issue regarding the lack of sidewalks.

Judge Wendell Griffin stated that no empirical scientific data shows that vicious systems prevent any category of crime.

5. New Business

Informational session on Axon.

- Sean Jennings from Axon gave an overview of Axon's technology, including Axon Fuses and the community connect program.
- Addressed how the technology works and how it is used with partners across the United States.
- Real-time operations centers integrate data tools and resources for law enforcement and first responders.
- Community Connect Program: Community members can voluntarily provide video from their properties.
- Connected communities are safer communities.

Chief Helton shared information about the system in place since 2022.

- The goal is to be more efficient and provide better service.
- The Real-Time Crime Center is meant to consolidate resources and disseminate information quickly.
- The department is working to address crime and engage with the community.
- The Real-Time Crime Center does not have facial recognition software.

Commissioner Thompson requested clarification regarding the Citizen Review Board.

The City Attorney's office responded by saying they review inquiries and determine whether they fall within the purview of the Citizen Review Board.

6. Questions from Board Members

A question about the Community Connect Program was asked.

The board clarified the levels of camera access.

Questions about data ownership were posed to Mr. Jennings.

7. Public Questions

A resident asked if the city has ever used technology to surveil organizers and protesters.

A resident asked about ShotSpotter data.

A resident inquired about the cost of the security system and the authority to allocate funds.

A resident brought up statistics and data misrepresentation.

A resident asked about Axon Fuses and crime reduction, drones, and sharing data with ICE.

A resident asked Mr. Jennings about scientifically validated studies and his qualifications.

VI. New Motions

A motion was made to establish a special committee on the Real Time Crime Center.

The motion failed.

A motion was made to recommend to the city board of directors to pause implementation of the real-time crime center until the public has had more opportunity to debate its use.

The motion failed.

Next Meeting - January 16

8. Adjournment