

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24 AS AMENDED
URGING THE MAYOR AND DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH
COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM ON USING PERSISTENT SURVEILLANCE AS PART OF A
CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY

WHEREAS, according to 2017 Justice Department statistics the City of St. Louis leads the nation in homicides at a rate of 66.1 murders per 100,000 people, and the various costs of these crimes to the City and the community is significant; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies across the United States are exploring the use of aerial systems as a crime reduction strategy, and to assist with a multitude of policing tasks such as accident and crime scene investigations, search-and-rescue efforts, and oversight; and

WHEREAS, as part of their crime reduction strategies many such agencies are also exploring “persistent surveillance”; the use of photographic systems that cover large areas simultaneously over extended periods of time, using aircraft and high vantage points such as buildings; and

WHEREAS, this technology has shown great potential as a cost-effective tool for broadening crime related information gathering and providing critical leads for investigators without increasing staff and the workloads of existing personnel, and mitigating the potential harms to personnel associated with gathering such information in the field; and

WHEREAS, persistent surveillance also provides oversight for law enforcement agencies by identifying potential police misconduct, providing an unbiased “witness” in the form of photographic and video evidence, and by allowing investigators to identify and approach potential witnesses to misconduct with information to start discussion away from the scene; and

WHEREAS, The Dr. Ross McNutt - Community Support Program is a provider of persistent surveillance services and has worked closely with the leaders and stakeholder of other cities to explore the use of persistent surveillance and then tailor its use so as to address their needs while respecting individuals’ rights of privacy and building trust between law enforcement and the members of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the City has the opportunity to enter into discussions with Community Support Program about the use of persistent surveillance as a part of the City’s overall crime reduction strategy; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that in order for the City to enter into such discussions there must be broad-based community awareness and therefore the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and its representatives’, and the City’s Chief Technology Officer’s participation is critical; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that, regardless of the effort required and cost incurred, protecting individuals’ privacy and community involvement must be the central focuses of any such discussions with Community Support Program or any other persistent surveillance provider, as well any contract that may result therefrom.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we urge the Mayor and Director of Public Safety, with the cooperation and input of the City of St. Louis Division of Police, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, and the City’s Chief Technology Officer to open discussions with Community Support Program to explore how the use of persistent surveillance might be employed as a part of the City’s crime reduction strategy in compliance with City’s Surveillance Technology Use Report Policy requirements to ensure the privacy of community member’s is protected.

**Introduced this 2nd day of July, 2020 by:
The Honorable Tom Oldenburg, Alderman 16th Ward
The Honorable Pamela Boyd, Alderwoman 20th Ward**

Adopted this ____ day of July, 2020 as attested by:

Terry Kennedy
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis Reed
President, Board of Aldermen