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Cc: FGG, Public Comment; CV Live Data Robert Johnson; ABC 10 San Diego; Fox 5 69 San Diego; News Fox Cable Insider; KOGO Carl DeMaio (Reform California KOGO DeMaio Report); KPBS San Diego; KUSI 51 San Diego; La Prensa San Diego; NBC 7 San Diego; San Diego UT Senior Editor; San Diego UT Community Op Ed; saopinion@timesofsandiego.comn; Voice of San Diego; will.huntsberry@voiceofsandiego.org; News Encinitas Advocate; Escondido Times-Advocate; Rancho Santa Fe Review; Coronado Times; News Coronado Eagle Journal; La Jolla Light Editor; Chula Vista Star News; News Chula Vista Live Data; News Chula Vista Today; Carlsbad Coast News (also San Marcos Vista & Oceanside); Borrego Springs Sun; Village News
Subject: [External] AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERAS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS (PLEASE INCLUDE WITH DOCUMENTS FOR AGENDA #25)
Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024 10:50:29 AM

Good Morning, Supervisors,

Re-SHERIFF - RECEIVE A PRESENTATION ON AUTOMATED LICENSE

PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERAS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS

OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

We need to go slow on this.

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION CAMERA (ALPR) technology, usually mounted on streetlights, invades our privacy. ALPR data would go through several hands. Ours would be stored on Amazon Cloud. Very hackable. I don't know if the police even care about keeping the community's trust.

And do we know how far the license plate readers can 'see' into private property from the street?

Don't look at or discuss classified info. near the ALPR streetlights either, which may be a problem in a Navy area particularly, but could impact a lot of others who have access to classified info.

The SDPD said that ALPR provides indisputable evidence. Any evidence can be disputed - that's what lawyers get paid for. Don't be deceived by a sales pitch. And the presenter said data will be masked "if allowed." Speak of things that are speculative in nature!

And then, I have a simple question: who can turn the smart streetlights on and off?

In 2016, the San Diego City Council approved the smart streetlights with cameras and sensors accessible by police. In 2020, the Mayor ordered the streetlights turned off. But Ubicquia, the installer and owner, told the city that it would have to write new code to turn the surveillance off, and it would only do so if the city paid up. Doesn't sound like something we should get involved in.

ALPR's are basically an AI thing. A research paper from UC Berkeley and Stanford University says that over just 3 months, ChatGPT, an AI program, went from correctly answering a simple math problem 98% of the time to just 2%. Similar for visual prediction. With those stats, I don't think we're ready to consider AI in smart streetlights.

And the dangers and ease of creating deepfakes is well known.

How many pix are they 'enhancing' just enough to frame someone innocent?

AI moreover, cannot testify in Court. The extra staff to sort out and interpret this data will cost the City more than it's worth - money-wise, legal-wise, and reputation-wise.

This ALPR thing is severely flawed and needs strict limits to prevent rights abuses for all, regardless of who was able to present arguments against or for.

Regards,

Paul Henkin