



Rahm Emanuel
Mayor

Department of Police • City of Chicago
3510 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60653

Eddie T. Johnson
Superintendent of Police

November 10, 2016

Karen Sheley
Director, Police Practices Project
Roger Baldwin Foundation of ACLU, Inc.
Suite 2300
180 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Ms. Sheley:

I am in receipt of your letter dated October 18, 2016 regarding the Chicago Police Department's (CPD's) use of facial recognition technology. CPD is committed to keeping our communities safe through a variety of crime reduction strategies, including advances in technology, while safeguarding individuals' privacy and other legal rights. Accordingly, we welcome the opportunity to provide you with information regarding our limited use of facial recognition technology as an additional investigative tool for our Department members.

As I am sure you are aware, the Georgetown Study provides specific recommendations regarding the use of facial recognition technology by law enforcement agencies. At present, CPD is following the majority of these recommendations. CPD uses facial recognition technology only in cases where a criminal predicate (or reasonable suspicion of a criminal predicate) exists. The only databases CPD uses are those containing locally obtained "mugshots." CPD does not use the FBI's mugshot database, and it does not use civilian databases, such as driver's license and ID photo databases. Moreover, when arrests are properly expunged through the Court system, those mugshots are removed from the databases used by CPD. Finally, CPD does not use facial recognition technology in real time-situations, and it does not use it during First Amendment-protected gatherings.

The Georgetown Study also recommends that law enforcement agencies are transparent in their policies regarding facial recognition technology and conduct internal audits regarding their use of this technology. To comply with these recommendations, and to help the public better understand our use of facial recognition technology, we are in the process of rewriting our directive to reflect how we use this technology. We will provide you with a copy of our revised directive once it becomes available. As to internal audits, we log every use of this technology, and are in the process of enhancing our internal audit process. In particular, the CPD's Crime Prevention Information Center ("CPIC") is the primary source within the Department that receives requests for information ("RFI") for facial recognition technology. Once an RFI is received by CPIC, these requests are audited internally to ensure such a request is for lawful investigative purposes.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Charise Valente
General Counsel