

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Carla Short, Director, Public Works
Michael Makstman, Executive Director/CIO, Department of Technology

FROM: Monique Crayton, Assistant Clerk, Government Audit and Oversight Committee

DATE: April 15, 2026

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

The Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee has received the following Ordinance request on April 7, 2026.

File No. 260334

Administrative Code - Amendments to Public Works Surveillance Technology Policies

Ordinance approving amended Surveillance Technology Policies for the Department of Public Works' use of unmanned aerial vehicles ("Drones"), and the Department of Public Works' use of an illegal dumping camera system with automatic license plate reader technology and cameras; and making required findings in support of said approvals.

If you have any comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: monique.crayton@sfgov.org.

CC:
David Steinberg, Public Works
Ian Schneider, Public Works
Karen Hong Yee, Department of Technology

1 [Administrative Code - Amendments to Public Works Surveillance Technology Policies]

2

3 **Ordinance approving amended Surveillance Technology Policies for the Department of**
4 **Public Works’ use of unmanned aerial vehicles (“Drones”), and the Department of**
5 **Public Works’ use of an illegal dumping camera system with automatic license plate**
6 **reader technology and cameras; and making required findings in support of said**
7 **approvals.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.
9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.
10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.
11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.
12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.
13 **Asterisks (* * * *)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code
14 subsections or parts of tables.

15 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

16 Section 1. Background.

17 (a) Terms used in this ordinance shall have the meaning set forth in Administrative
18 Code Chapter 19B (“Chapter 19B”).

19 (b) Chapter 19B regulates City departments’ acquisition and use of Surveillance
20 Technology, as defined in Chapter 19B. Under Section 19B.2(a), a department must obtain
21 the approval of the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) by ordinance of a Surveillance Technology
22 Policy before: (1) seeking funds for Surveillance Technology; (2) acquiring or borrowing new
23 Surveillance Technology; (3) using new or existing Surveillance Technology for a purpose, in
24 a manner, or in a location not specified in a Surveillance Technology Policy ordinance
25 approved by the Board in accordance with Chapter 19B; (4) entering into agreement with a
non-City entity to acquire, share, or otherwise use Surveillance Technology; or (5) entering

1 into an oral or written agreement under which a non-City entity or individual regularly provides
2 the department with data or information acquired through the entity's use of Surveillance
3 Technology.

4 (c) Under Administrative Code Section 19B.2(b), the Board may approve a
5 Surveillance Technology Policy ordinance under Section 19B.2(a) if: (1) the department
6 seeking the Board's approval under Section 19B.2(a) creates a Surveillance Technology
7 Policy and Surveillance Impact Report for the Surveillance Technology to be acquired or
8 used; and (2) at a public hearing at which the Committee on Information Technology ("COIT")
9 considers the Surveillance Technology Policy, COIT recommends that the Board adopt, adopt
10 with modifications, or decline to adopt the Surveillance Technology
11 Policy for the Surveillance Technology to be acquired or used.

12 (d) Under Administrative Code Section 19B.2(m), any amendment to an existing
13 Surveillance Technology Policy shall be submitted directly to the Board and not to COIT.

14 (e) On July 27, 2021, the Board approved the Department of Public Works' (the
15 "Department") Surveillance Technology Policy titled, "Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones)"
16 (Board File No. 210559), to be used for disaster preparedness and response, environmental
17 monitoring and documentation, inspections and surveys of the Department's properties and
18 assets, inspections and documentation of the Department's projects, and surveying and
19 mapping data collection.

20 (f) On July 27, 2021, the Board of approved the Department's Surveillance Technology
21 Policy titled, "OnSight Portable License Plate Reader" (Board File No. 210559), for
22 Surveillance Technology used to discourage illegal dumping onto City streets.

23 (g) On August 1, 2025, the Department provided COIT with a courtesy copy of
24 amendments to the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) Surveillance Technology (the
25 "Amended Drones Policy"), as well as a courtesy copy of amendments to the Department's

1 OnSight Portable License Plate Reader Surveillance Technology Policy, which has now been
2 retitled, the “Illegal Dumping Camera System” Surveillance Technology Policy (the “Amended
3 Illegal Dumping Camera Policy”).

4 (h) The Amended Drones Policy and the Amended Illegal Dumping Camera Policy are
5 on file and available for review in Board File No.260334.

6 (i) This ordinance sets forth the Board’s findings in support of the Amended Drones
7 Policy and the Amended Illegal Dumping Camera Policy and its approval of these policies.

8
9 Section 2. Usage of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones).

10 (a) The Department currently possesses and uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (“UAVs”
11 or “Drones”) pursuant to the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones) Surveillance Technology
12 Policy. The Department currently uses drone technology for (1) disaster preparedness and
13 response, (2) environmental monitoring and documentation, (3) inspections and surveys of
14 the Department’s properties and assets, (4) inspections and documentation of the
15 Department’s projects, and (5) surveying and mapping data collection.

16 (b) In addition to the preceding uses, the Department seeks to use Drones for the
17 purposes of public education, the promotion of Department operations, and identifying illegal
18 dumping refuse for garbage collection operations.

19
20 Section 3. Usage of the Illegal Dumping Camera System.

21 (a) The Department currently possesses and uses automated license plate reader
22 (“ALPR”) technology pursuant to the OnSight Portable License Plate Reader Surveillance
23 Technology Policy. Specifically, for proof of concept, the Department has used two license
24 plate readers mounted on poles at the Department’s facilities and nine license plate readers
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1 mounted on fixed locations in one supervisorial district as part of a pilot project to discourage
2 illegal dumping.

3 (b) In addition to the preceding uses, the Department seeks to utilize ALPRs together
4 with pan, tilt, and zoom (“PTZ”) cameras as part of an “Illegal Dumping Camera System”
5 comprised of the two technologies. The Illegal Dumping Camera System would be used to
6 improve the identification of illegal dumping violators and enforcement actions directed at
7 illegal dumping violators by capturing evidence of vehicle drivers’ and passengers’ illegal
8 dumping activity along with the associated vehicles’ license plate. In addition, the Department
9 would use the Illegal Dumping Camera System for public education and to promote
10 awareness of the Department’s operations.

11
12 Section 4. Findings and Approval of Amended Surveillance Policies.

13 (a) The Board hereby finds that the benefits of the surveillance technology authorized
14 by the Amended Drones Policy outweigh its costs and risks; that the Amended Drones Policy
15 will safeguard civil liberties and civil rights; and that the uses and deployments of technology
16 authorized under the Amended Drones Policy will not be based upon discriminatory or
17 viewpoint-based factors or have a disparate impact on any community or Protected Class, as
18 defined in Section 19B.1 of the Administrative Code.

19 (b) The Board hereby finds that the benefits of the surveillance technology authorized
20 by the Amended Illegal Dumping Camera Policy outweigh its costs and risks; that the
21 Amended Illegal Dumping Camera Policy will safeguard civil liberties and civil rights; and that
22 the uses and deployments of technology authorized under the Amended Illegal Dumping
23 Camera Policy will not be based upon discriminatory or viewpoint-based factors or have a
24 disparate impact on any community or Protected Class, as defined in Section 19B.1 of the
25 Administrative Code.

1 (c) The Board hereby approves the Amended Drones Policy and Amended Illegal
2 Dumping Camera Policy.

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4 Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective at 12:00 a.m. on the
5 31st day after enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor
6 returns the ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it,
7 or the Board of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

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9 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
10 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

11 By: /s/ _____
12 CHRISTOPHER T. TOM
13 Deputy City Attorney

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15 4902-9798-2616, v. 1
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